

SUBJECT TO COMMISSION
APPROVAL AT THE
NEXT REGULAR MEETING

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
November 20, 2013

COMMISSION PRESENT: John Nelson, Frank Pyles, Chuck Covert, Mike Kilkenny,
Jim Bishop, Donna Lawrence and John Layson

ABSENT MEMBERS: None

STAFF PRESENT: Dale McCabe – City Engineer, Dave Anderson, Public
Works Director, Nolan Young – City Manager, Jay
Waterbury – City Police Chief, Tim McGlothlin – City
Council Representative and Cindy Keever –
Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sheldon Leigh, Chase Nagamatsu, Dorian Lovett,
Shelly Lovett, Jim Habberstad, Tom Tramontina,
Mathew Klebes, Clay Smith and Ethan Wray.

Jim Bishop moved to approve the minutes as written. Mike Kilkenny seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Sonrise Academy School Zone/Crosswalk Request

Sheldon Leigh, President of Sonrise Academy Student Body asked the Commission to consider adding a mid-block crosswalk on 12th Street leading to the main entrance into their school and to install School Zone signs along 12th and Federal Streets. Sheldon explained there are approximately 70 students that attend Sonrise Academy and over 50% walk at least to or from school each day.

Chief Waterbury said in the past, the City has tried to avoid putting in any mid-block crosswalks in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) manual. Jay asked about the possibility of students using the crosswalks at the northwest corner of 12th & Federal.

A discussion was held regarding different options to help make drivers aware of the students walking in the area. Donna Lawrence asked if a crossing guard could monitor the crosswalks or if cones could be used to make the crosswalk more visible during the

beginning and ending of each school day. Mike Kilkenney asked about possibly extending the school zone signs from the high school area and are there any signs already on 12th? Dale McCabe recommended looking at 12th Street between Union and Federal Streets to create a school zone corridor. Matthew Klebes with The Dalles Main Street Organization, suggested sidewalk bulb outs at the intersections to extend the sidewalks past any parked cars to ensure pedestrians can be seen by oncoming traffic (similar to what was done at 12th & Kelly Avenue).

Donna made a motion to have the City paint the crosswalks at the Federal & 12th Street intersection. Crosswalks would be on the north side of Federal and on the west side of 12th Street. Mike Kilkenney seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Note – painting of crosswalks is dependent on specific weather conditions, therefore it is unknown exactly when the painting will be done.

2) Crosswalks in Need of Refreshing Around Town

Tim McGlothlin brought forward a concern from Kurt Evans, Vice Principal for The Dalles High School, who had spoken to Tim regarding his concerns about the lack of fresh paint on the crosswalks surrounding the High School and other school zones around town. Dave Anderson, Public Works Director, spoke to the group and listed reasons why the painting did not get done before school started in late summer, as it has in the past, (i.e.; fire, delay in chip seal projects and mechanical failure with both County and City equipment). Dave told members the plan is to try and get as many crosswalks painted as possible in the next several days. Painting has to be done during specific weather conditions because the asphalt must be dry and above 40 degrees in order to give the paint sufficient time to properly dry.

3) Pop Up Parks

Matthew Klebes, with The Dalles Main Street Organization, spoke to the commission about an idea his group has to promote area businesses. He handed out flyers explaining “Pop Up Parks or Parklets” and how they benefit businesses. Pop Up Parks are movable during the snow season to allow for plowing and in warmer weather they can also be moved to various locations to benefit different businesses. A few parking spaces are lost when putting up a Pop Up Park, but business benefit from the extra gathering of people. No comments needed at this time.

4) Riverfront Park and Bicycle Riding

Clay Smith asked Mr. Klebes if the vehicle parking at The Dalles Marina and next to Riverfront Park is part of the Main Street Program. Discussion was held regarding bicycles crossing in the area, Port of The Dalles and the Trail Committee negotiations and how a bicyclist can get thru the boat basin area safely. No comments needed at this time.

5) W 7th – Myrtle to Snipes Area Speed Posting

Discussion was held regarding the different speeds that are posted on 7th Street between Hostetler and Walnut. Speed is posted 25 mph between Hostetler and Snipes and is posted 35 mph between Snipes and Walnut. Sections of 7th Street are considered a Public Access Road which means that neither the City nor County specifically maintains the road or the signs.

Members asked Dale, City Engineer, about the Marriot Hotel being built facing 7th Street and how much extra vehicular and pedestrian traffic is anticipated for that area. Dale said the Marriot will be an 80 unit hotel and the entrance and exits will all be onto 7th Street.

Chuck Covert made a motion to coordinate with Wasco County to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph. Mike Kilkenney seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6) Basketball Hoops on W 22nd

Nolan Young began the discussion explaining the background for the request for the Encroachment Permit by Mr. & Mrs. Porter of 522 W 22nd Street, for the basketball hoop in the cul-de-sac on W 22nd Street. Upon receipt of the original request Nolan asked the Porters to gather a signed petition from the neighbors agreeing upon the placement of the basketball hoop. Basketball hoop was originally placed in front of the lot owned by Tom and Carol Tramontina (2111 Garrison). Tramontina's did not agree to the placement so the hoop was moved to its current location in front of 2115 Garrison. Nolan issued an Encroachment Permit once the Porter's brought him the signed petition from area neighbors.

Discussion was held regarding why the basketball hoop was not originally put in front of the Porter's house, the slope of the road into the cul de sac, steepness of the area yards and locations areas that are not conducive to play basketball.

Jim Habberstad, representative for the Tramontinas spoke to the group regarding Tom's belief there is a serious safety concern by having the hoop in the street. Tom said West 22nd Street is offset and does not intersect at a 90 degree angle. He explained there is an approximate 16 % grade change and he gave a presentation of what drivers can see as they round the corner entering the cul de sac. Tom said there are 2 basketball hoops in 2 private driveways in that cul de sac and they are an 8 minute walk away from Col. Wright School. Mr. Tramontina is appealing Nolan's approval for an Encroachment Permit and is requesting the issue be brought before the City Council. Mr. Habberstad doesn't believe an adequate safety study was done prior to the approval of the Encroachment Permit.

A discussion was held among commission members with the consensus being that the City should not be issuing any permits that would encourage children to play in the street.

Donna Lawrence made a motion to recommend to Nolan and the City Council for removal of the basketball hoop in the cul de sac on W 22nd Street. Chuck Covert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mike Kilkenney abstained from voting due to a professional relationship with the Porters.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Right Turn Yield at 2nd & Hostetler

Cindy Kever told the members she had received a call shortly after the October meeting from Shirley Hovda and she had explained the Commissions' decision to leave the signage as is. Because of the phone call, Cindy did not send a letter to Shirley Hovda. Mrs. Hovda thanked the commission for their time.

2) Speed Study at 6th & Division

Dale McCabe told the Commission that the speed study has been done, but that the computer part of the radar trailer had been taken off of the machine, packaged up and was shipped back to the manufacturer for their help in retrieving the information. Information will be shared with the members as soon as it is received.

3) Webber Street Water Line Project

Dale McCabe told members that the contractor is going to be doing a pressure test on the water line today. He also told members he has been in contact with the contractor daily (if not several times a day) regarding the CDF that is starting to wash out of the cuts because of the recent rains we have experienced. The cut is difficult to drive across due to ruts, ridges and potholes The contractor has filled the areas with gravel as a temporary fix and is meeting this afternoon with the asphalt plant owner to schedule hot mix to patch the cuts.

4) 7th & Pomona Site Visibility Issue

John Nelson read an email from Cindy Kever regarding her conversation with Steve Horzynek, Operations Manager with PUD. Steve had explained that the PUD does not normally trim ivy (or other vegetation) off of poles unless it is becoming a hazard to their lines. In this instance and because of the aggressive nature of ivy, he did agree to cut the ivy close to the ground and then spray it He also suggested calling the City's Codes Enforcement Officer and reporting the site hazard that is caused by the ivy growing on the wall. Commission members agreed with the suggestion and an email will be sent to the Codes Enforcement Officer so that a letter can be sent to the property owner.

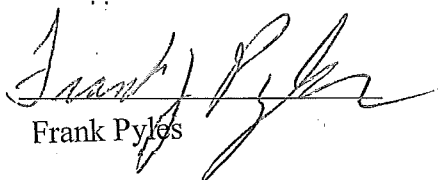
5) Oregon Impact Traffic Study

John Nelson explained the Oregon Impact Traffic Study and asked if members could also take a look at the study, send their comments to him and he will compile the information and bring it back to the table for the December meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chuck Covert moved to adjourn. Mike Kilkenney seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Keever
Administrative Secretary
City of The Dalles

Final approval


Frank Pyles