



KEIZER TRAFFIC SAFETY, BIKEWAYS & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Keizer City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present:

Jamie Davis, Chair
Tammy Saldivar, Vice Chair
Michael DeBlasi
David Dempster
Hersch Sangster
Brenda Lamb
Rick Kuehn

Absent:

Mike Griffin, Storm Ops & Streets

Council Liaison/Staff Present:

Councilor Robert Husseman (via phone)
Sgt. David LeDay, Police
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A correction was made to the Minutes. Hersch Sangster moved for approval of the January 2023 Minutes as corrected. David Dempster seconded. Motion passed as follows: Davis, DeBlasi, Dempster, Lamb and Sangster in favor, with Kuehn and Saldivar abstaining.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS:

Mike Jaffe, Council of Governments and Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study, explained what the organizations do including metropolitan safety action planning. He explained that this is a year long process involving studying a combination of crash information from ODOT, community outreach and a virtual open house March 13 through April 6. He urged everyone to participate and provide input on broad topics and specific areas. The goal is to come up with focus areas and review high-crash locations with options to remedy dangerous areas. Sgt. LeDay noted that everything is data driven but consideration should be given to causes rather than just locations; data plus causation should show the picture rather than just location itself.

Rhonda Rich, President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, introduced herself and members of the WKNA Board and explained that Rob Witters will be attending Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee meetings and reporting to members of the association in order to keep the membership informed. She also shared her input on improvements needed to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan and provided examples of safety measures that have been accomplished through the WKNA without the use of the NTMP.

Jacque Green, Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association, shared information about the association including goals, accomplishments and concerns. Lengthy discussion followed regarding pedestrian safety on Verda near the roundabout and Keizer Road.

Ken Gierloff, Keizer, reiterated his request from the November meeting for a 'table top' (raised) crosswalk and/or a pedestrian activated flasher at the Alder/Brooks crosswalk. Chair Davis noted that she would contact the school principal at Weddle to see if they can provide volunteers from the Middle School to serve as crossing guards or if a representative could come to the neighborhood association meetings. Sgt. LeDay noted that there is definitely a speeding problem in the area and his motors have been doing a lot of enforcement. Enforcement will continue.

Carol Doerfler, Keizer, announced that she had noticed that since the installation of the flashing speed limit signs on Shoreline the traffic is slower.

JENNA BERMAN, Active Transportation Liaison for the Oregon Department of Transportation, introduced herself and explained her job duties and areas for which she is responsible. She noted that she is available to help the City apply for infrastructure grants, provided information about Oregon Community Paths, and explained that projects need to be part of the City Transportation System Plan. She urged the City to apply for a Safe Routes to School Project Identification Plan and to continue applying for grants year after year.

She then brought up an early committee project: wayfinding signage along the Salem Parkway bike path noting that this is still an opportunity that is on the table but that although ODOT would pay for initial cost, Keizer would be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Chair Davis indicated that she would talk with Public Works Director Bill Lawyer about this. Councilor Husseman voiced enthusiastic support for this project. Ms. Berman indicated that she would restart the project noting that this grant does not require a match.

Mike DeBlasi asked if painting could be put down on the bikeway on Cherry at the Parkway to better designate the area. Ms. Berman responded that ODOT is looking at projects for that intersection and working with engineers to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Ms. Berman then announced that a study is being done for bike/ped improvements in Salem and she encouraged the committee to participate. There will be an initial on-line open house in March/April with an in person event to follow. She also urged that matches for grants be included in each annual budget so if a grant is awarded, the matching funds are readily available.

BROOKS/ALDER CROSSWALK: No update

COMMITTEE UPDATE TO 'COMMITTEE PURPOSE': No update.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Ms. Saldivar reported that she had come to the meeting with many questions for Mike Griffin but will email those to him so she can have something for the committee next month.

SKATS REPORT: It was noted that updates are being made to the Transportation Improvement Program. The only project nearby is to the South Salem Transit System.

CITIES TO SET SPEED LIMITS DISCUSSION: Chair Davis summarized Brenda Lamb's report which stated that the new law just changes who can do the study for a speed limit change. The individual governments still have to submit the study to ODOT for approval. When a concern is brought forward it is reviewed to see if the request is reasonable and has

a chance for the state to approve. Then a traffic study is done. If the committee has an area of concern, it would need to be monitored so they should reach out to Bill Lawyer.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INPUT / NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Rick Kuehn volunteered to follow the Safety Action Plan that Mike Jaffe was talking about. He praised the speed zoning change process noting that it needs to be data based and having the final decision made at the state level takes it out of the local political realm, which is good. He pointed out that when Keizer was incorporated it was set up with minimal government and the use of volunteers and keeping the tax rate low so now the City does not have funds for minor things. The Long Range Planning might be an opportunity to revisit this concept.

David Dempster reminded everyone to report complaints about streets, sidewalks, etc. to Code Enforcement either in person or via their on-line reporting tool.

Hersch Sangster announced that he would be attending the ODOT Traffic Safety Seminar March 13-14, a Bike Skills event would be held June 10, Council approved solicitation of donations for the helmet program and \$300 was received at the Council meeting. He also shared information about partners for the Bike Skills event, bike rides and the most recent Northwest Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting.

Jamie Davis announced that she had given the 2022 Committee Overview Report to Council at the February 6 Council meeting.

STAFF REPORT: None

POLICE REPORT: Sgt. LeDay reported there were 8 crashes in January: 5 caused by distracted driving, 3 occurring in intersections (1 ran red light, 1 careless driving [2 offenders], and 1 left turn failure to yield).

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Husseman reported that Council is beginning the process of long range strategic planning for the City on February 27. They will be working with a consultant. He expects transportation and bike safety to play a significant part in this discussion. He urged committee members to make their voices heard.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Reporting to Council and Attending/Monitoring Planning Commission: Michael DeBlasi
Monday, March 6, 2023 – Council | March 8, 2023 – Planning Commission

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting ~ March 16, 2023, 6 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 03-16-23