



TRAFFIC SAFETY, BIKEWAYS & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, March 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 (6:41)
Michael DeBlasi
David Dempster
Hersch Sangster
Brenda Lamb
Rick Kuehn

Council Liaison/Staff Present:

Councilor Robert Husseman (via phone)
Mike Griffin, Storm Ops & Streets
Officer Martin Powell, Police
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: David Dempster moved for approval of the February 2023. Brenda Lamb seconded. Motion passed as follows: Davis, DeBlasi, Dempster, Lamb, Sangster and Kuehn in favor, with Kuehn and Saldivar absent at time of vote.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS: None

BROOKS/ALDER CROSSWALK: Chair Davis reported that she had emailed the principals recently but had not heard back from them. She suggested that a committee member attend the Budget Committee meetings and request funding for a pedestrian activated flashing beacon at the crosswalk. Mike Griffin interjected that the committee still needed to go through the steps in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. Committee members agreed that it was still important to make the Budget Committee aware of the need.

She also reported that she had been contacted by R.J. Navarro who had indicated that although areas of Keizer have asked for more police support, they are not asking for more tickets – just presence.

COMMITTEE UPDATE TO 'COMMITTEE PURPOSE': To be addressed next month.

UPDATE TO NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Chair Davis reported that Tammy was delayed due to traffic. She noted that the committee members who were working on this were finished but Tammy has a few questions for Mike Griffin. She would like to have a finished draft for committee review at the April meeting so that they can send it along with the updated Committee Purpose to legal for review. When Ms. Saldivar arrived she asked Mike Griffin several questions to which he responded.

SKATS/SAFETY ACTION PLAN REPORT: Attention was brought to the survey flyer on the back of the agenda. Hersch Sangster provided details and Chair Davis urged everyone to complete the survey and pass the link on to their neighborhood associations and others. Committee members then reviewed various safety issues they felt would be appropriate for submission on the survey.

ODOT TRAFFIC SAFETY SEMINAR REPORT: Hersch Sangster reported that safety was a hot topic at the seminar and he learned that there might be money available to assist cities with the cost of improving safety at crosswalks. He noted that Oregon crash/death rate is very high. Program managers from various areas were at the seminar and indicated that many jurisdictions will need to rely on technology for enforcement because they do not have sufficient staffing. There are new crosswalk designs and a new look for red light running monitors. The federal government seems to be serious about this so there may be funding available from that area. He noted that classes teaching drivers how to share the road with cyclists are being held in Portland, Bend and Eugene and he is hoping to get one in the valley.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INPUT / NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Brenda Lamb reported that some intersections in Pendleton have pedestrian safety flags. They have non-profits who adopted certain intersections and they are responsible for replacing the flags when needed. ~~Tammy Saldivar~~ Hersch Sangster¹ interjected that he had found a possible source to revive this project but specific areas would need to be named. Ms. Lamb volunteered to research how other cities do this and to contact some non-profits.

Hersch Sangster announced that the Bike Skills Fair would be June 10. Salem Housing Authority has requested an event as well. All Keizer neighborhood associations met together recently to hear the Mayor's State of the City Address.

Mike DeBlasi noted that since the Traffic System Plan is out of date and Keizer shares the urban growth boundary with Salem, perhaps the two cities could share the cost and update both cities' TSP. He volunteered to explore this possibility. Councilor Husseman interjected that this might be something in which SKATS would be involved.

David Dempster noted that he wanted to check into city policies on placement of mailboxes because there are several that serve multiple units that are placed in the middle of sidewalks. He also voiced concern about adding driveways to River Road and noted that apparently speed limit signs in eastern Oregon are only 'suggestions'.

Rick Kuehn noted that cars are safer now but drivers are not; there seems to be a feeling of entitlement. Chair Davis added that education is important and suggested that the committee have a booth at KeizerFest to push safety. Mr. Kuehn also questioned why ADA ramps are being placed at intersections where there is no pedestrian traffic. Ms. Saldivar explained that ODOT had lost a lawsuit and now they are mandated to put the ramps in every intersection.

¹ Corrected at April 20 meeting.

Tammy Saldivar noted that the crossing light at Lockhaven at McLeod was not long enough for a person in a wheel chair to cross. Mike Griffin urged her to send him an email and he would forward that information to Salem to check.

STAFF REPORT: Mike Griffin reviewed various projects that will be starting soon. He added that if the committee wants to pursue the placement of wayfinding signs, the City can begin working on an intergovernmental agreement with ODOT. Committee agreed by consensus that they wanted to pursue this project.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT: Officer Powell explained that speeding and crashes are up nationwide because during the Covid pandemic there were fewer drivers on the road so those driving went faster. This did not change when more drivers came back. Distracted driving (which is not just use of cell phones) is still an issue but is not as bad as it used to be.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Husseman reported that he has been working with Mayor Clark on a small project to mitigate traffic concerns at Candlewood and Brooks. He urged the committee to continue letting Council know where traffic mitigation needs to be done.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Reporting to Council and Attending/Monitoring Planning Commission: Tammy Saldivar, Monday, April 3, 2023 – Council | April 12, 2023 – Planning Commission

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting ~ April 20, 2023, 6 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 04-20-23