

Minutes

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Of

September 18, 2019

7:00a

**COMMISSION PRESENT:** Frank Pyles, Michael Holloran, Fred Davis, Mike Kilkenny, Robert Kuenzinger, Brent Bybee and Larry Fairclo.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** Russ Brown – Council Representative, Jeff Kienlen – City Police and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Jimmy Wells, Ed Ortega and Sue Pavers – employees with Northern Wasco County PUD.

Michael Holloran made a motion to approve the August minutes. Mike Kilkenny seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jimmy Wells, NWCPUD talked to the members about their request to reduce the speed limit on River Road in front of their business to 30 mph. The current speed is 45 mph. PUD recently installed security gates and when the employees are waiting to enter into the gated area on River Road, other cars traveling on River Road accelerate as they come out of the corner and then all of a sudden have to brake when PUD vehicles are entering or exiting from the PUD lot (and this has been happening at the Barnett Barge Line lot too). With the development of the port area there seems to have been an increase in pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic and PUD is worried about more near misses and/or accidents in the future.

Committee members acknowledged the potential increase in accidents and discussed different speed limit options.

Robert Kuenzinger made a motion to do a study of the speed, pedestrian traffic, and visibility and traffic counts in the area and then forward the findings to city staff with a recommendation to extend the 30 mph speed limit to just past Barnett Barge Line property, on River Road, and to change the speed signage too. Brent Bybee seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A) Traffic Lights at 6<sup>th</sup> and Webber

Robert reported he is waiting on the ODOT forms to fill in the data he has collected. Issue will be continued at the October meeting.

B) Update of Painted Lines around Town

Cindy Keever reported the Public Works' Transportation Division crew was painting the yellow areas that have been suggested in recent TSC meeting and gave an update of the city's proposed completion schedule for the line striping around town.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A) Visibility Problem Areas around Town

Jeff Kienlen talked to the group about drivers not stopping for pedestrians (especially in the downtown areas) and making sure pedestrians (and cars) can be seen when pedestrians are crossing the streets. He also believes there has been an increase in pedestrian traffic all over town.

A couple areas were discussed where the Russian Sage plants and grasses make visibility more difficult.

It was agreed the crosswalk bulb outs that were recently installed near Dry Hollow School are an effective way to increase visibility. Traffic seems to have slowed down because of the improvements.

It was also suggested that "light flashers" on un-metered intersections would be a good way to alert motorists of pedestrian crossings. Court Street and Federal Street, at both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, would be good candidates for the light flashers. Robert Kuenzinger said in both the Main Street and TSP plans there have been talk of bulb outs at crosswalks. Russ Brown asked to have the City Engineer check on costs for the light flashers. Jeff asked the TSC members to start thinking more about walkability issues during meeting and when driving around town.

B) Miscellaneous

Russ asked what the current cost of a ticket when using a cell phone while driving. Jeff provided fine amounts. Russ believes people using cell phones when driving has not really decreased.

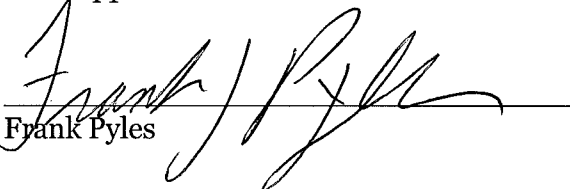
Mike Kilkenny reported there is a root growing out of the pavement on Lincoln, south of 16<sup>th</sup> Street. This is very dangerous when riding a bicycle or motorcycle. Russ also reported he had seen a root in the road at 11<sup>th</sup> and H Street too. Information will be given to the Transportation Division for repair.

Frank Pyles reported the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> and Thompson is again difficult to see the downhill traffic. The shrubs were removed (and it was much better) but now the weeds (that replaced the shrubs) have become very tall and the site line is being obscured again. Nikki in Codes Enforcement will be notified.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Robert Kuenzinger moved to adjourn. Brent Bybee seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Keever  
Administrative Secretary  
City of The Dalles Public Works

Final approval

  
Frank Pyles