

Traffic Control Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Angela Cimmino ✓
Doug Kary ✓
Keith Lang ✓
Walt Willett ✓

Capt. T.J. Vladic ✓
Sondra Baker
Judge Knisely

✓ = Present

Staff Support: Terry Smith, John Gibson, Lora Mattox

Guests: None

Call to Order: At 12:19 PM by Doug Kary in Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Library

Minutes: Minutes of the January 2007 meeting were not available

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Terry reported on the following items:

Grand Avenue 8th to 12th Street West: The project for widening Grand Avenue between 8th Street West and 12th Street West is scheduled for a March 27th bid opening. Construction this season will depend on resolving acquisition of needed right-of-way from four remaining parcels. The City has started condemnation proceedings to set the value of the right-of-way being acquired from these parcels. It is hoped to get right of entry for the parcels so that construction can go forward while the court determines the property value. Doug asked which properties are left to be acquired? Terry responded that the old Dairy Queen site at 11th & Grand was one of the parcels. Terry was unsure where the remaining parcels were, but said he would find out and distribute the information to the Board.

Downtown Way Finding Signage: The City Council awarded a construction contract to Epcon Signs at their February 12th meeting. It is hoped to have all the signs installed by the end of May this spring.

BOARD REPORTS:

Parking Board: No formal report. Construction continues on expansion of the Park II garage.

Planning Board: Lora Mattox reported that the Lockwood transportation study is still on-going. Subdivision activity remains down, with only 2 major plats submitted for review, one City and one county. A transportation study for the Blue Creek area will probably be started later this year. The City Council adopted the Highland Neighborhood Plan at their February 26th meeting. Wyeth Friday has been named the new Planning Division Manager.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION: The Council voted at their February 26th meeting to recommend approval of amendments to the *2005 Transportation Plan* to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC). The amendments are needed to make sure the transportation plan is fiscally constrained and that planned projects fit within anticipated revenues. No new projects were added to the Plan.

OLD BUSINESSES:

Billings Events Ad Hoc Committee: The Board decided at last month's meeting to write a letter to the Mayor asking that the scope of this Committee be expanded beyond just insurance and fee issues. Terry noted that while staff is willing to help prepare such a letter, specifics need to come from the Board. During discussion, the Board listed the following issues they feel should be addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee:

- Clean-up after events
- City support for events (staff & equipment from Police, Street-Traffic, & Solid Waste)
- Standards for traffic control including signing, barricades & course guards
- Differences in requirements for profit and non-profit events
- Duration of street closures allowed
- Type (classification) of streets that can be closed
- Application time frame

NEW BUSINESSES:

Election of Board Chairperson: Election of a new chairperson was delayed until the next meeting in anticipation of having all Board appointments filled.

Parking on S. 40th Street: Terry distributed a request from the Code Enforcement Division to prohibit parking on S. 40th Street between 1st & 2nd Avenues South. Terry noted he has some concerns that this appears to be more of an issue of trying to keep the used car lot at the southeast corner of the intersection from parking cars on the street than a safety issue. Terry also noted there are other streets in the immediate area that are narrower than this block of 40th. The next block of 40th to the south (between 2nd and 3rd) is considerably narrower, and S. 41st Street between 1st & 2nd Avenues is also narrower. Terry feels it would be difficult to remove parking in the block requested for "safety reasons" and ignore the other blocks. Terry distributed copies of City Code sections addressing parking on narrow streets and in "hazardous or congested" places. Staff does not have administrative authority under these sections to remove parking for the both sides of the entire block as requested. Terry is concerned the requested removal of parking may just move the problem to other streets in the area. Terry suggested limiting parking to 2-hours might preclude the used car lot from leaving cars on the street, without preventing all on-street parking by the neighboring properties. T.J. asked that Police, Traffic Engineering & Code Enforcement staff be allowed to meet and discuss the issue before any time restrictions or parking removal is implemented.

Traffic Calming and Lewis Avenue: Terry distributed a copy of the Resolution 13854, which is the City's only written policy on traffic calming. Engineering Division staff has been discussing the need to update the policy to provide more specific guidance on where and what type of traffic calming measures can be used on City streets. Terry noted that the Board's role was to provide staff and the City Council with feedback on policies related to traffic issues. The Board members present felt an updated policy should be developed before new or additional traffic calming measures are implemented on any specific street.

No Thru Traffic Signing: Item delayed until next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM