

Traffic Control Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 27th, 2007

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

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

✓ = Present

Staff Support: Terry Smith, Debi Meling, John Gibson, Lora Mattox

Guests: Jim Rafler, Vernon Austin, Harold Barnhart, L.D. Foster, Marjorie Humphrey, Annette Childers, Nita Horn

Call to Order: At 12:15 in the Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Library

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the February meeting by Angela Cimmino, seconded by Walt Willett. Motion carried on voice vote

PUBLIC COMMENT: All guests were present regarding the S. 12th St. West issue. There was no public comment regarding items not on the agenda.

STAFF REPORTS:

Widening of Grand Avenue: Terry reported the bid opening for the widening of Grand Avenue from 8th Street West to 12th Street West is scheduled for today at 2 PM (March 27th). Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of August of 2007.

Downtown Deliveries: Capt. Vladic and Terry have met and discussed options for addressing the downtown deliveries with DBA merchants. They are pursuing a voluntary resolution to the issue and an article will be placed in the DBA newsletter regarding the problems arising from trucks parking in traffic lanes while making deliveries. This will give the businesses an opportunity to address the problem without passing additional laws. Doug suggested that restricting delivery times might be an option.

Effect of two-way left turn lanes (TWLTL) on accident rates: Terry distributed some information originally developed for the right-of-way condemnation action on Grand Avenue showing the reduction in accident rates along Grand Avenue and Broadwater Avenue where TWLTL's are in place.

BOARD REPORTS:

Parking Board: None. It was decided to remove this item from future agendas.

Planning Board: Lora Mattox reported there have been many concept and pre-application meetings for new subdivisions. There could be four major subdivisions submitted for the month of April. Lora had no new information to report on the Lockwood Transportation Study. A *Request for Proposals* (RFP) for the Blue Creek Transportation Study could go out as early as April.

NEW BUSINESSES:

S. 12th Street West, two-way street designation: Terry provided a history on 12th Street West south of Central Avenue to board members and guests. The street is currently two-way between Central and Concord; one-way from Concord to Juneau, and two-way south of Juneau. Traffic counts collected on 12th St West between Eldorado and Fairview show about 300 cars per day using the street. Traffic data shows that approximately 1/3 of the traffic is traveling the wrong way on the existing one-way segment of 12th. A petition was submitted to staff that carried 75 signatures in support of making 12th a two-way street; 5 signatures in favor of keeping the existing one-way designation; and 13 signers that had no preference between one-way and two-way.

Each guest had an opportunity to comment on the proposal to change 12th St West south of Central Avenue back to a two-way street. The majority of citizens present were supportive of the change. They were also concerned about the present condition of South 12th Street West and also South Plainview, and wanted to know what measures could be taken to get the streets fixed. Terry noted that this portion of 12th was never constructed to City standards and suggested that someone within the neighborhood should begin making contact with staff engineers to discuss options and costs for an Special Improvement District (SID). Walt moved the Board support the staff recommendation to make S.12th Street West a 2-way street south of Central. Sondra seconded the motion and it carried on voice vote. The proposal will be sent to City Council for approval.

Annette Childers stated she would take on the task of organizing a steering committee to meet with engineering staff to explore formation of an SID.

Election of Board Chairperson: Walt Willett nominated Doug Kary as Chairman and Sondra Baker nominated Walt Willett as Vice Chairman. There were no further nominations. Doug and Walt were approved by acclamation.

Reports on “No Thru Traffic Signing” and “Vending from Public Streets” will be carried forward to next month’s agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking on S. 40th Street: Staff met with Code Enforcement Officer Nancy McCullough and the manager for Fasteners Inc, 4016 1st Avenue South. In order to eliminate congestion on 40th at 1st South, parking has been restricted along the west side of South 40th between the two driveways serving Fasteners Inc. This will reduce congestion for traffic turning off 1st Avenue South and also make it easier for trucks to get to the Fasteners Inc. loading dock area.

Capt Vladic stated the police would place stickers on any unlicensed vehicle in an attempt to discourage the car dealer on the east side of the street from using the street for storage purposes. A nuisance complaint can be filed if the parking problem continues.

Billings Events Ad Hoc Committee: Doug Kary reported he had heard nothing in response to his e-mail to the Mayor. Terry reported that he had talked with Karen Sanford-Gall who is chairing the committee. What is expected to be the final committee meeting will be held tonight. The committee was not asked to expand their scope to include issues beyond insurance and permit fees. It looks like the City will purchase blanket insurance coverage for special events and then charge individual event sponsors an “insurance fee” to recover the costs of buying the policy.

Items for Next Months Agenda:

No Thru Traffic Signing

Vending from Public Streets

Aronson Extension project

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM