

ASTORIA TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Astoria City Hall

January 26, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

President Pearson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Director Cronin introduced new City Planner, Nancy Ferber, noting she had been able to attend several City meetings in the six weeks she had been working at the City.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

This item was addressed immediately following Item 3: Roll Call.

In accordance with Sections 1.110 and 1.115 of the Astoria Development Code, the Traffic Safety Committee needs to elect officers for 2016. The 2015 officers were President Dave Pearson, Vice President McLaren Innes, and Secretary Sherri Williams.

Vice President Innes moved that the Traffic Safety Committee re-elect David Pearson as President for 2016, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick. Motion passed unanimously.

President Pearson moved that the Traffic Safety Committee elect Kent Easom as Vice President for 2016, seconded by Vice President Innes. Motion passed unanimously.

President Pearson moved that the Traffic Safety Committee re-elect Sherri Williams as Secretary for 2016, seconded by Vice President Innes. Motion passed unanimously.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: President David Pearson, Vice President Kent Easom, McLaren Innes, Sean Fitzpatrick, Daryl Moore, and Frank Spence

Commissioners Excused: Jan Mitchell

Staff Present: Planner Nancy Ferber, Community Development Director Kevin Cronin, and Police Sergeant Brian Ayd. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Innes moved that the Traffic Safety Committee approve the minutes of October 27, 2015 as presented, seconded by Vice President Easom. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Item 5(a): Project Updates – Kevin Cronin

Director Cronin updated the TSC on several projects, as follows:

- Right Turns Permitted Without Stopping Traffic Study: In December 2015, City Council decided to move forward with the striping reconfiguration at 8th and Irving. No other recommendations in the study would be implemented or readdressed unless the City heard from citizens that issues still exist at the intersections in the study. Staff plans to complete the striping work over the summer.
- Bridge at Irving Avenue and 19th Street: A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November 2015 and punch list items are being completed.
- Waterfront Bridges Replacement (Bridge Ends) Project: The City received a grant to replace the rights-of-way that end at the river from 6th Street to 11th Street. A consultant has assessed the structural supports under the bridges.

Cindy Moore is the project manager on this project and the full design engineering phase will begin in 2016. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2017.

- Hanover Sidewalks Project: Astoria received a grant from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to build sidewalks near the high school. The design consultant selection process will begin in February or March. This project was identified in the Transportation System Plan (TSP).
- 23rd Street and Franklin Avenue Access Management Project: The old gas station at this intersection will be demolished and the street will be reconfigured to eliminate the hard right turn by the urgent care center. Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) will administer the construction contract and demolition will begin in the summer.
- Pedestrian Safety Enhancements Program: Astoria has an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with ODOT to upgrade the pedestrian signals on 33rd Street at Safeway. Public Works continues to help the Police Department secure funding for a portable speed reader. Upgrades to the downtown traffic signals will cost \$450,000 and work on that project should begin in 2016.

Commissioner Moore said when it is raining and dark, it is not possible to see pedestrians crossing the street when turning left from 33rd Street. Many drivers are not diligent about this and he was happy to learn there would be lighting at that location.

Sergeant Aydt stated Staff was still exploring speed board grant opportunities, but opted not to apply for an ODOT grant because the requirements made the project too cumbersome.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pam Myers, 218 Franklin Avenue, Astoria, said when she permanently moves to Astoria, she would love to do something about Franklin Avenue. The street goes uphill with a sharp left turn and many kids skateboard down the hill. Cars must slam on their brakes and honk their horns. She believed a "no skateboarding" sign on the telephone pole would help prevent someone from being killed.

Vice President Easom said a no parking zone has been added to the south side of Franklin Ave near 8th Street to improve traffic conditions at the intersection. However, the resident who lives on the northwest corner of the intersection parks close to the corner. The corner gets tight when one car passes through the intersection while another is turning right on to Franklin. He suggested the no parking zone on Franklin be extended. He did not know if any accidents had occurred, but he has seen some close calls as conditions at that intersection have worsened over the last several years.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick was concerned about the southwest corner of 8th Street and Grand. A very large motor home has been parked in that location for a long time and the hedge facing 8th Street has grown very close to Grand and extends over the sidewalk. One must get out into traffic quite far to see around the house, hedge, and RV. He asked if anything could be done about this situation. He was also concerned about a bush at the corner of 10th and Marine that looks like a person trying to cross the street. The bush might slow some drivers down, but it is also a distraction. The bush does not add any aesthetics to the intersection and he asked if something could be done about it.

Director Cronin said he would speak to the owners of the property at 8th and Grand about trimming the hedge, but he was not familiar with the bush at 10th and Marine Ave. He noted the RV is only allowed to be parked on the property for 24 hours. Sergeant Aydt added the Police Department generally only enforces the 24-hour limit if a complaint has been made. Director Cronin confirmed the bulb outs between Farmer's Insurance and the Maritime Tavern was an ODOT right-of-way and he believed the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA) maintained the vegetation. He said he would email Alana Garner to see if she had any information.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to convene the Planning Commission meeting at 6:46 pm.

APPROVED:



Director