

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2016

PRESENT: James Rotondo, Jeff Wennberg and Commander Prouty

GUESTS: Ron Hemenway, John Sabatano and Jeff Schroder

The meeting was called to order by Sgt. Prouty at 9:10 A.M. Minutes from the June 17, 2016 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved. No further discussion. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. Bus stop proposal on Allen Street – Ron Hemenway

Commander Prouty mentioned that Ken Putnam at “The Bus” had contacted him regarding a stop at 69 or 71 Allen Street. Commander Prouty also stated that as it stands today, we won't be making decision regarding Public highway. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that previous discussions we have had stated that “The Bus” can't stop at either of these locations where they have proposed. It would be safer to pull off of Allen Street.

Jeff Schroder mentioned that he had come in to our Traffic Safety Committee meeting in September of 2015 and asked about this. He mentioned that yesterday, July 14, 2016, he had a blind student call. This student has to get off at Mussey Street and cross the street to get to the doctor's office on Allen Street. This doesn't make sense.

Jeff Wennberg asked if anyone has tried to work with the owner of the property located at 69 Allen Street. If the owner would be willing to remove a couple of parking spots at 69 Allen Street, “The Bus” could pull off of Allen Street and let riders off at a safe location.

Ron Hemenway mentioned that he had understood that “The Bus” would be pulling into the location at 69 Allen Street and not having a pull out space. He also asked if “The Bus” needs right of way to go through the parking lot at 69 Allen Street. Commander Prouty mentioned that it would just be a drop off.

Jeff Schroder stated that they were going to survey people to see what their thoughts were about having “The Bus” stop at either 69 or 71 Allen Street, but that never happened. He has spoken to a lot of bus drivers that drop a bunch of people there. He asked if the City owns the buffer between the residence next to 71 Allen Street and the road. Jeff Wennberg stated that usually from back side of the sidewalk to road is the City's property. Jim Rotondo stated right of way is usually 49 ½ - 50 feet. If there were a stairway & sidewalk through the properties, maybe they could work with people to use that to get from one property to the other.

Ron Hemenway mentioned that he can just see an accident waiting to happen when people are trying to cross from Mussey Street to 69 Allen Street. He also mentioned that he understands that a sidewalk on the Allen Street side of the street isn't going to happen. He asked if it were feasible to do a swing, to pull off the street? Jim Rotondo said, something like what was done in complete streets? They just built one on Forest Street. Jim mentioned that it may require an easement. Ron asked where the money comes from to do this? Jeff Wennberg stated that it comes from the sidewalk money.

Jim Rotondo asked if “The Bus” should be taking the lead on this, just being that if they want to work something out with the private property owner, that would be between them. We haven't received a proposal from “The Bus” so we don't have an actual location of where they would like to have the bus stop. Due to this, we can't make a determination if it would need to involve the private property owner.

Jeff Schroder and Ron Hemenway mentioned that they will contact Ken with “The Bus”. Commander Prouty mentioned that he thought “The Bus” had a plan in mind.

2. “The Bus” proposal for Allen Street bus stop – Ken Putnam

Ken wasn't able to attend today's meeting. Commander Prouty will contact Ken regarding his proposal.

3. Other new business

Speed of traffic on Strongs Avenue –

John Sabatase met with Chief Kilcullen. He mentioned that he has been here all his life, been working at the Palm's since he was 3, was on the downtown development board for 18 years and was on the Paramount Board. He is concerned with the speed of traffic on Strongs Avenue. Chief told him that he doesn't support mid block crosswalks. The option of a bump out was mentioned. This would reduce the width of road and would have shorter distance for pedestrians to cross the road.

Chief Kilcullen and Commander Prouty checked out the area of concern and wouldn't advise putting a crosswalk there. Maybe could put a bump out. Commander Prouty also mentioned that they are trying to work with complete streets initiative in the State to deal with pedestrians and speed. They have fantastic layouts. When DPW goes to redo something, they will be taking complete streets into consideration. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that it is better to change geometry of street rather than do enforcement.

John mentioned that if we wanted to put a camera on top of his building, we could. Commander Prouty told John that if he had a camera and he wanted to put it on his personal space, he could.

Branches around Stop Signs –

John mentioned that the City needs to go out to stop signs and cut the branches that are blocking them. Jeff Wennberg asked John to give him the intersections and he'll have the forester do it.

John stated the he needs to commend Commander Prouty on what they are doing here. Chief Kilcullen called John twice to let him know when this meeting was being held, so he could be present.

Complete Streets –

Jim Rotondo brought the complete streets plan to share with everyone, to show what they are planning to do.

Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

Other Old Business:

To close out the meeting, Sgt. Prouty asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post

