

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2015

PRESENT: Jim Rotondo, Commander Geno, Brad Lafaso and Jeff Wennberg

GUESTS: Charlie Oakman

The meeting was called to order by Commander Geno at 9:00 A.M. Minutes from the November 20, 2015 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved. No further discussion. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. School zone limits and signs around the Middle school and Intermediate schools – Charlie Oakman

Charlie Oakman mentioned that several cars are driving too fast in the School zone and have come close to hitting the crossing guards on a few occasions. He requested that we make the speed limit 25 mph in this area.

Commander Geno approved this request and asked that 2 25 mph signs be put up. One will be put up close to Library Avenue and Grove Street and the other one close to Library Avenue and Church Street.

Commander Geno mentioned that we had put up the speed cart to get data regarding the speeding cars. The speed cart is in need of a part and when we receive it, we will put this cart up to track the data.

2. Other new business

No other new business was discussed.

Old Business:

1. Other old business

Park Street intersection – Jeff Wennberg

Jeff spoke with Butch Shaw regarding this intersection. His concern is that this is a classic case of people seeing a building frustration in trying to get through intersection and they don't see how it relates to how this affects all traffic further down the road. It reminded him of when we put up a couple of stop signs on Stratton Road near the Maple's complex. We tried the stop signs and found them not to be necessary. He's concerned that we'll find ourselves in a position where we'll propose a change with expectation that it isn't going to work, but at least try it. If we don't propose to try something, the pressure is going to get worse. It isn't going to go away. In talking with Brad and Butch, Jeff mentioned that they have come up with a couple of ideas. We need to demonstrate that we're willing to try.

Proposal #1 – Remove the right turn on red and see how it goes. Brad mentioned that he already stole 12 seconds for Town fair tire. Most people are complaining when it's clear, they should be able to turn on right. During peak times it could cause back up of traffic and cause accidents. Commander Geno agrees. He also mentioned that traffic seemed to flow through the cycle fine at this location when the Dorr Drive bridge was closed. He said that usually 8-10 cars can get through. Commander Geno also mentioned that he has sat there around 4 pm and there are about 20 cars trying to get through a cycle. He doesn't believe there is an obstructed view there. Brad discussed all the signals we have at this location. When someone runs light and gets caught up here in the middle, people can't turn right. With construction the other day, people ran light, got jammed up and then it became bottlenecked.

Proposal #2 - Put up a blank out sign with no right turn on red, during peak time. This would be the least hazardous option) Peak time is 6 am – 9 am and 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm. We would need to do an educational piece on this. Commander Geno asked if we would have something near the box, saying no turn on red. The answer was no. We would need to get permission from the railroad. Brad mentioned that it is very expensive to do this. It would be about \$4,300.00 for the blank out sign and you need equipment to mount it and he's not sure in the controller can take this. He will check.

Jeff suggested that we find out what's involved to do this. The real problem is all the cut through traffic. The line's get too long.

Brad mentioned that a Park Street neighbor came into the street when they were working on the lights for town fair tire to talk about the problems with traffic here. Brad had the lady watch the cycle and explained why we can't change the timing. After watching the cycle, she seemed to understand.

Jim asked if this revision would increase more cut through traffic. It was stated that we weren't sure.

Gary Donahue mentioned that there is heavy truck traffic on Forest Street. Commander Geno stated that he's absolutely right. They're avoiding Main Street and downtown. Commander Geno thinks it may be in the ordinance that there is no trough truck traffic.

To close out the meeting, Commander Geno asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Captain Tucker
Lt. Geno
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post