



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
February 24, 2011 – 7:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Anderson.
2. **ROLL CALL. Members present:** Anderson, Knapp, Mazur, McCroskey, Miki. Staff present: Officer O'Connor, Chaney, Chavez.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 24, 2011.** Minutes were approved with no changes, four ayes and one abstention.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alan Riffer asked what had happened to the Commission's request to paint the curb. Staff was to contact Public Works.

John Miki said that he did his ride along with the Police Department.
5. **PRESENTATION**
 - 5-1 **Police Report**

Officer O'Connor reported that in January 2011, there had been 10 collisions in the City: 6 injury and 4 non-injury collisions. Two collisions were hit and run, 2 occurred on Marin Avenue, and two others occurred near schools. One was auto/pedestrian type, and another involved a bicyclist. The APD had issued 77 moving violations and 22 DUIs. Officer O'Connor reported that on Sunday, February 22 at 11:46 am, there was a multiple-car collision on Solano Avenue that resulted in two injuries. The APD was investigating the case.
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**
 - 6-1 **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.**

Moved/second by Mazur/Knapp to nominate McCroskey as Chair, and Miki Vice-Chair. Vote was unanimous. Miki was requested to take meeting notes to help staff.
 - 6-2 **Comments on the Training Session for City Commissions/Committees/Boards**

Chaney said that she would find out if posting comments on public media venues, like the Albany Patch would be considered a violation of the Brown Act.
 - 6-3 **Parking on Washington Avenue between Pierce St. and Polk St. Study Session**

Chavez reported on the findings of the speed survey conducted in November 2010. Based on the results, there is a speeding problem on Washington Avenue, but the volume is over the threshold stated in the City policy for traffic calming. Francis Chapman, resident of Washington Avenue presented the issue:

 - 1) Sidewalk blocked by parked vehicles.
 - 2) Speeding over 60% of the posted speed limit.

3) Washington Ave. is a shortcut between the freeway and San Pablo Ave. and from San Pablo Ave. to Ranch 99.

4) Washington is a desired walking route.

Solutions may include: installation of stop signs at Washington and Polk; construction of an island at Washington and Gateview; traffic diverters and converting Washington Avenue to one-way street from Cerrito Street to Pierce Street.

Discussion was open to the public. The following people spoke at the meeting: Tish Berlin., Preston Jordan, Alan Riffer, Caryl O'Keefe. Comments:

- The APD do not ticket on Albany Hill
- Is the alley way between Washington and Solano at Pierce City property?
- The AS&R completed a sidewalk survey that could be used for identifying problem areas on the Albany Hill.
- Check the City Municipal Code and enforce it.
- It is difficult for bicyclists to navigate through streets with parking on both sides, particularly streets that are narrow.
- Motorists try to figure out who has the right of way at the intersection of Washington/Polk.
- People park on the sidewalk on Gateview and the street is not narrow

The Commission discussed the issue. These were their comments:

- Streets in the area are too narrow and do not meet ADA standards,
- Trash cans added to the problem.
- Nielsen St. had the same narrow cross section and residents do not park on the sidewalk.
- Washington St. cross section may be wide enough to allow vehicles to park on the street.
- A possible solution could be to narrow the intersection of Washington Avenue and Pierce St. and Washington and Gateview Ave.
- Washington St. is important because is identified in the Active Transportation Plan as part of the bicycle network.
- By slowing down Washington St., it would not be a desirable shortcut any more.

Could the Commission see a list of possible solutions?

Action: Moved/second by Knap/Anderson to place the issue on the April agenda and to invite residents of the area to this meeting. Vote was unanimous.

6-4 Report by Commissioner Knapp regarding back in parking

Knapp reported that he had done some research on back in parking and had found out that it was implemented in several jurisdictions. These were his findings:

Controversial issue

Difficult to back up

there were some issues with pedestrians when vehicle is backing up.

People may argue that it is similar to parallel parking.

The Commission had the following comments:

large vehicles have issues with back in parking as well as communities with no parallel parking.

Support for idea proposed in the Active Transportation Plan Draft to have back in parking as a pilot project by Memorial Park. Discussion was open to the public:

Caryl O'Keefe said that she supported the concept of back in parking.

Action: No action was taken for this item

6-5 Traffic and Safety Commission Work Program

Chavez explained that last year, she had presented a work program for the Commission to guide the projects and policies that the Commission could take on in a given year. Most of the projects and plans that were laid out at the beginning of last year were currently on-going projects or plans. She asked the Commission for ideas for policies and projects to work on in 2011. The Commission had the following comments:

- Large Vehicle Parking ordinance was not working very well. Staff suggested discussing this issue in a future agenda and alerting APD to attend that meeting
- Commercial parking enforcement is also an issue.
- Work on establishing school zones. Chaney said that staff will research the issue.

Discussion was open to the public.

Preston Jordan suggested adding sidewalks as a policy initiative, prioritizing signage and striping projects in the Active Transportation Plan. Knapp requested to see the survey because upgrading sidewalks could raise delicate issues for the City.

Action: Moved/second by Miki/Mazur to accept memo with the following changes: Under Construction Projects, add Prioritize implementation of signage and stripe projects listed in the ATP. Under Policy Initiatives, add the word “signage” after School Zones. Under Policy Initiatives, add Explore sidewalk conditions as a policy initiative and under Implementation/Procedures add: Funding for the implementation of the ATP projects. Vote: 4 ayes, 1 abstained.

7. REPORTS

7-1 Update on the Buchanan – Jackson signal and pedestrian improvements –Covered in item 6-

7-2 Update on Pierce Street Pavement Rehabilitation – Covered in item 6-5.

7-4 Update on the Active Transportation Plan – Chavez provided an update on the schedule.

7-5 Update on speed surveys.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

McCroskey said that March was the Good Neighbor Month at Marin School. Flyers and banners were posted around school and an APD officer will patrol at drop off and pick up times.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Commission announcements or requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

- Active Transportation Plans (April, 2011)
- Parking on Washington Avenue between Pierce Street and Polk Street and to (April, 2011)
- Temporary parking restriction on the existing green zone on the south side of the 1000 block of Solano Avenue at Subway restaurant (April, 2011).
- Speed hump on 800 block of Carmel-the commission may want to defer this to City Council.
- Permit parking program (April, 2011)
- Parking enforcement (April or May, 2011)

10. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm. - Next meeting: February 24, 2011.

7:00 pm. City Council Chambers

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