

**MINUTES  
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday**

**June 16, 2009**

Chairperson Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Leppanen, McGowan, Reynolds, Chiara, DeCorte (ex-officio), Nebus (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Mehas

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Chiara, seconded by McGowan, to accept the minutes of May 19, 2009. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Ryan Arens, 22725 Power (248-756-5385) appeared to express concern about speeding on Power Road. Mr. Arens lives near Cloverdale. Director Nebus committed to selective enforcement and use of the speed trailer.

Mr. Arens responded to Chairperson Reynolds question that he did not believe traffic has increased because of downtown construction. Mr. Arens shared his observation that when cars are parked on Power Road, it reduces the speed of traffic.

Mr. DeCorte shared the historical results of speed studies and accident studies done on Power Road approximately six years ago. Mr. DeCorte said many residents got together and legally parked cars in the street and the average speeds were reduced to 19 mph.

Mr. Arens inquired about the possibility of adding a stop sign on Power Road. Mr. DeCorte shared the requirements of the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Power and Cloverdale intersection does not meet the stop sign criteria listed in the manual. He also explained that it is illegal to install a stop sign to control speed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Farmington and Freedom (traffic signal)  
Mr. DeCorte reported that Gary Piotrowicz, from the Oakland County Road Commission, confirmed that the low level traffic signal will be installed in the correct position along the Farmington Road curb line so motorists will be able to clearly see it.
- B. Grand River 35 MPH Sign  
Director Nebus had no report but will try to give an update at the next meeting.
- C. Multiple Traffic Issues From Kevin Gianinni

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The traffic board discussed the twenty-nine page packet of concerns from Mr. Gianinni dated May 26, 2009, that were emailed to the traffic board after the May meeting. Many board members, including Director Nebus and Bob DeCorte, had spent considerable time investigating Mr. Gianinni's complaints prior to the meeting: :

- Basketball Nets: Board members reported that the basketball nets in the street reported by Mr. Gianinni at specific locations were not observed. It was discussed, however, that other basketball nets were observed, that basketball poles and nets in the street were a hazard to traffic and that playing basketball in the street was unsafe. A motion was made by Chiara, seconded by Leppanen to recommend enforcement action against playing basketball in the street. Motion carried. There was discussion that Director Nebus would draft an appropriate letter to send to addresses where basketball nets are located in the street. Enforcement action would result if a warning is ignored. Director Nebus will author a draft of a letter warning violators.
- Abandoned Autos: Board members who visited sites reported by Mr. Gianinni shared that with a couple of exceptions, all of the vehicles were moved. The few vehicles that were observed were properly licensed, legally parked, in good condition and appeared to be functional. Director Nebus reported that the city wants to enforce abandoned autos but they have generally not been a problem. The director suggested, and the board agreed, that it is more practical and a better use of resources to follow up on specific complaints made by residents who observe a car on their own street that they reasonably believe has been abandoned or not moved for an extended period of time.
- Sidewalk Obstructions: Director Nebus said the public safety department rarely receives sidewalk obstruction complaints. The director explained that it is illegal, even for the resident, to park in their own driveway blocking the sidewalk. Officers have the discretion to issue violations when they believe they are warranted and will respond to complaints. Director Nebus shared that PSO Spelman issued a sidewalk obstruction parking ticket on April 20, 2009, as a result of a complaint from Mr. Gianinni. The registered owner recently failed to appear in court and a default judgment was imposed.
- Landscape Obstruction: Mr. DeCorte and board members who visited the sites of Mr. Gianinni's complaints confirmed there may be landscape obstructions in violation of the clear corner ordinance at: Loomis and Prospect, Prospect and Shiawassee (bushes are about 5" too high), Lamar and Orchard Lake, Shiawassee and Power.

Mr. Reynolds reported that in addition to Mr. Gianinni's list, he believed that a landscape obstruction existed at the southeast corner of Marblehead and Power.

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Mr. DeCorte suggested that the Shiawassee and Power obstruction may violate the letter of the ordinance but it does not cause a pedestrian or traffic hazard because of the slant and design of the intersection.

Director Nebus will send the minutes of the meeting to Director Gushman for ordinance review and proper action if warranted, these matters being within the purview of his department.

- Speed Trailer Placement: Mr. Gianinni complained about the placement of the speed trailer along Power Road by City Park. Director Nebus explained that the public safety department places the speed trailer on the bike path of Power Road by City Park and not the grass for several reasons. First, the speed trailer is intentionally placed in a position close to the traveled portion of the road to slow traffic, to be seen by motorists and for the accuracy of the radar. Second, moving the trailer over the curb would require two people and can jar the unit and trailer, thereby risking damage to the components. Third, the public safety department attempts to set an example by not driving or parking on the park grass, except when necessary. The board commented that Mr. Gianinni's perspective notwithstanding, the speed trailer is a valuable tool and the board has every confidence that the department's public safety officers are competent to place it appropriately.
- Volunteer Parking Enforcement: Mr. Gianinni, in his presentation to the board at its May meeting, and in his extensive written presentation, proposed that the city establish a civilian parking enforcement patrol to patrol both public and private property and issue parking tickets. Director Nebus shared his support and familiarity of the civilian parking enforcement program at Farmington Hills. The director explained that civilian parking enforcement requires time and expenses to recruit, interview, conduct background investigations, train, equip and hire. The program may also require the expense of uniforms, cameras, clipboards, cars, gasoline, insurance, etc. The board also discussed and agreed that rarely have residents complained about parking enforcement. The board saw no merit to Mr. Gianinni's proposal.
- Time Restricted Parking: Mr. Gianinni, in his extensive presentation, reiterated his opposition that residents should not be allowed to park on the street while their garages and driveways are empty. Chairperson Reynolds stated there has been no outcry for prohibiting or restricting street parking. Mr. McGowan shared that street parking is legal and most residents support street parking. The board declined to take any action to restrict residents parking between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. throughout the city as proposed by Mr. Gianinni.
- No Left Turns and Grand River & Farmington: Director Nebus shared that public safety officers have observed cars ignoring the temporary, no-left turn

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sign for westbound Grand River at Farmington. The public safety department gave warnings for the first several days. The department is now issuing citations on a daily basis. Additional signage is being explored. There were no other recommendations for changes at the intersection. This is a difficult, but temporary situation.

- Stop Lines: The board confirmed there are no painted stop lines at Lamar and Orchard Lake as observed by Mr. Gianinni. In fact, Director Nebus stated there are no other painted stop lines in the subdivision. The director will explore further, but stated staffing, time and money may prohibit the painting. Mr. DeCorte stated there is no legal requirement to paint stop lines. The board saw no reason to paint stop lines at Lamar and Orchard Lake Road.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Chiara shared the selective enforcement on Shiawassee was effectively addressing speeding concerns on Shiawassee but he wondered why it was stopped? The director stated five days of mid-morning and mid-afternoon enforcement resulted in three tickets and two warnings. Selective enforcement was followed up by two days of a decoy car. The director stated speed was not detected as a problem and other traffic concerns had to be addressed.

Mr. Chiara shared a news article containing data confirming most motorists speed. He also initiated conversation about the DDA's "Play in the Street" campaign. The campaign refers to residents attending street activities on the closed streets during the Founder's Festival.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The board agreed to cancel the July 16, 2009 meeting due to the congestion that will be downtown during the Founders Festival. The board will meet next on August 20, 2009.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Chiara, seconded by Mr. Lepannen to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Nebus  
Public Safety Director