

CITY OF SONOMA
Traffic Safety Committee
Emergency Operations Center, 175 First Street West
November 27, 2012
MINUTES

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the agenda for this meeting was posted on Friday, November 26, 2012, on the bulletin board outside the front of Sonoma City Hall, No. 1 The Plaza, and 175 First Street West Sonoma, California. Chair Haeuser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center, Sonoma Police Department 175 First Street West.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Haeuser, Members Diaz, Golenpaul, Sutcliffe, Keegan,
Woodcock(Alternate)

Absent:

Others: Police Chief Sackett, Traffic Deputy Baraz, Street Supervisor Merrill,
Present: Administrative Aide Proctor, Administrative Assistant Morris, City Traffic
Engineer Penry

Chair Haeuser stated that no additional items would be heard unless mentioned during the start of the meeting. Any decisions made tonight can be appealed within 15 days to the City Council. He reminded everyone to turn off cell phones and pagers.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Haeuser made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2012 as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Item 4.1 – Public Hearing – Appeal of a denial of a red curb on Broadway and Clay

Contact: Robert Mosher

Chief Sackett presented staff's report.

A primary concern is pedestrian safety stemming from potential right of way issues. It was noted that there have been no significant reported accident history with records indicating only 2 incidents within the last 10 years. Pictures were projected on the overhead screen illustrating the apparent blocked view. The limit line, according to the vehicle code, allows a stop (existing protected shoulder) then a turn when a sight line is sufficient.

Chair Haeuser, opened the public hearing.

Robert Mosher, neighbor, speaks on behalf of a group that frequents the intersection. He feels the photos are good but not a completely accurate portrayal. They agree that the billboard is not a visual obstruction.

Phyllis Mosher, neighbor, cautions people to hesitate before proceeding through the intersection.

Karen Carroll, resident, feels that crossing Broadway is very unsafe.

Charlene Thomason, resident, avoids the intersection since it is problematic.

Chair Haeuser closed the public hearing.

Committee Discussion:

Members discussed the pros and cons of installing a red curb on Broadway (North of Clay) and on a portion of Clay Street. The consensus is that the intersection is dangerous since cars need to cautiously proceed to avoid traffic and pedestrians crossing Broadway. Members Golenpaul and Diaz prefer Staff to determine how much red paint is needed.

Recommendation to Staff:

Member Keegan requests that 25 ft. be painted for a safer intersection. Member Diaz seconded. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0. The consensus is to uphold the appeal and direct the Public Works Department to install a minimum of 50' painted red curb on Broadway and 10' on Clay Street.

Item 4.2 – Public Hearing – Review of the Bike Lane usage rates on Fifth Street West and W. MacArthur. A citizen is requesting the City consider removing the Bike Lane.

Contact: E.S. Sprague

Chief Sackett presented staff's report.

Traffic Engineer Penry explained the details regarding the bike lane usage rates, funding for the project and the process by which the bicycle routes were chosen.

Chair Haeuser, opened the public hearing.

Sandy and Renee Sprague, residents, are of the opinion that bike riders do not use the lanes and parking spaces should not have been removed.

Joe Harikian, resident, sees children riding their bikes on the sidewalk instead of the bike lanes.

The public represented felt that the results of the study were biased since the count was done on Bike and Walk to School Day (10-3). They were concerned about the loss in parking spaces decreasing their property values and noted that high school students ride on the sidewalk not the bike lanes.

Chair Haeuser, closed the public hearing.

Committee Discussion:

A discussion ensued led by Traffic Engineer Penry. He discussed the implemented Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Plan. Members expressed their opinion that the bike lanes are underutilized and more public outreach is necessary.

Chair Haeuser asked about the possibility of eliminating a bike lane if there was a financial impact for the City. Chief Sackett explained the topic could be explored at another time. (Informational meeting re: removing bike lanes)

Recommendation to Staff:

It was suggested that Associate Planner Atkins could assist with another traffic study count. Alternate Member Woodcock, 1st District representative on the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, will communicate further outreach to promote the use of the Pedestrian and Bicycle lanes.

Item 4.3- Review of improvement to the intersection at Fourth Street East and Brazil, which includes a proposed “No Parking Zone” on Fourth Street East approximately 25’ prior to the stop sign.

Contact: Karen Carroll, Allen (Bud) Maffei

Chief Sackett presented staff’s report.

A primary concern is pedestrian safety stemming from potential right of way issues. It was noted that there has been no significant reported accident history with records indicating only 2 incidents within the last 10 years, neither of which involved pedestrians

Chair Haeuser opened the public hearing.

Allen (Bud) Maffei, resident, views the new stop sign as a big improvement and would favor speed bumps to slow down traffic.

John Bouldt, resident, considers the area, based on lack of demarcation, “dangerous to the public’s health and safety” and has viewed many “near miss accidents” over the years with the speeding traffic passing through. He requested a re-assessment of Brazil Street and suggests that it be widened since it is only 15 feet wide or made a one way.

Susan Harris, resident, likes the botts’ dots and stop signs.

Bill Harris, resident, supports 25 ft. for a no parking zone (South of the stop sign).

Mark Henevald, Planning Commissioner, comments that residents have expressed their position to have no sidewalks to retain the rural nature of the area. Some property owners have been granted exceptions for sidewalk improvements.

Michael Carroll, resident, has observed several traffic concerns from large trucks, tour buses, and children and would like a stop sign going West and a sidewalk exception.

Rebecca Slazinski, resident, wants to preserve the picturesque area without compromising safety.

Chair Haeuser closed the public hearing.

Committee Discussion:

Members evaluated a variety of options to alleviate the concerns expressed by the public. Chief Sackett’s goal is to provide additional safety measures without compromising too much of the

allowable parking spaces. He will analyze the stop sign, speed bumps and red zone enforcement.

Recommendation to Staff:

The Public Works Department will evaluate the possibility of placing speed bumps on both Brazil Street and Fourth Street East and install a stop sign for the westbound traffic on Brazil Street. Traffic Engineer Penry will conduct the stop sign warrant analysis.

Item 4.4- Consideration of traffic safety impact in response to a recently approved tasting room facility at 143 West Spain Street.

Chief Sackett presented staff's report.

Contact: Philip Rosasco

Chair Haeuser opened the public hearing.

Philip Rosasco, neighbor, expressed concerns about the negative impact associated with the future use of the building. An increase of people will cause more traffic congestion.

Mark Henevald, Planning Commissioner, would like to see more interaction with the Traffic Safety Committee on issues that might be addressed before the Planning Commission makes a decision.

Chair Haeuser closed the public hearing.

Committee Discussion:

Members suggested making the street one way which would require more public outreach and City Council approval.

Recommendation to Staff:

Public Works will consider refreshing the red zones, follow up with the property owners on either side of the Church Street Alley about trimming the hedges (regulations) for more visibility and re-evaluate in 6 months after the Tasting Room has opened.

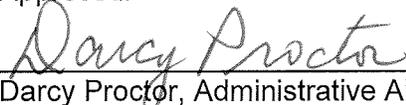
Member Comments (General):

Member Golenpaul is concerned about disabled parking. Parking enforcement makes citations in the major parking lots.

Comments from the Audience: None

Adjournment: Chair Haeuser made a motion to adjourn. Member Diaz seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to be determined.

Approved:



Darcy Proctor, Administrative Aide