

CITY OF SONOMA

**Traffic Safety Committee  
Emergency Operations Center, 175 First Street West  
December 5, 2013**

**MINUTES**

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the agenda for this meeting was posted on Friday, November 27, 2013, outside the front of 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, Bouldt, Sutcliffe, Woodcock

Absent: Member Keegan

Others Present: Police Chief Sackett, City Engineer/Public Works Director Takasugi, Administrative Aide Proctor, Administrative Assistant Morris

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:** No Public Comments

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Member Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 as submitted. Member Woodcock seconded. The motion carried unanimously, (4-0) Member Bouldt abstained since he was not a member of the TSC at the last meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**Item 4.1 – Public Hearing – Denial of Red Curb “Driveway Tipping” request at 341 First Street West ( Silvestri Apartments)**

**Contact: Harry Blum and Mari Best**

Chief Sackett presented staff's report.

A primary concern is the ingress and egress in front of 341 First Street West.

**Chair Haeuser opened the public comment.**

Harry Blum and Mari Best, who submitted the request, indicated they were speaking on behalf of other residents of 341 First Street West. They said that due to the proximity to the Plaza, the on-street parking is regularly utilized by visitors and/or Plaza area employees and is routinely full (the apartment complex has their own parking lot to the rear of the property). In order to maximize available parking, vehicles regularly park right at the edge of the driveway access to the apartment complex, which makes ingress/egress a challenge for the residents. To further complicate things, a utility pole is located on the sidewalk near the south property line and may slightly encroach onto the property line. The residents said that the red curb driveway tipping will limit the parking and avoid some pedestrian and traffic safety issues.

**Chair Haeuser closed the public comment.**

**Committee Discussion :** Member Sutcliffe confirmed with the applicant that southbound traffic is a concern and that better visibility for safety is needed. Members Diaz and Woodcock agreed that red tipping is necessary for making the turn safely and that driving can be problematic in certain areas of town. Member Bouldt stated his belief that safety is the responsibility of the drivers. Member Woodcock stated that since this is such a minor request and cost is not an issue then it should be granted. Members discussed the pros and cons of adding more red marking. Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi said that the amount of curb line is sufficient to park 4 vehicles and adding red curb tips would reduce the amount of available parking. In addition, red curb tips would have an initial cost to install and require annual maintenance in order to be effective. Takasugi was also concerned about setting a "precedence" due to the number of driveways in Sonoma. The Traffic Safety Officer is aware of this issue/situation presented. There is no code violation for encroaching upon the driveway and the City's authority is limited to only if the driveway is fully blocked so there is no access or access is severely impacted.

**Recommendation to Staff:** The committee denied red curb driveway tipping.

**Item 4.2 – Public Hearing – Discussion and recommendation regarding proposed update to Sonoma Municipal Code 10.74.010- Operation of bicycles and other conveyances on public sidewalk, or pedestrian and bike path.**

Chief Sackett presented staff's report.

**Chair Haeuser opened the public comment.**

No Public Comments.

**Chair Haeuser, closed the public comment.**

**Committee Discussion:** Member's discussed the pros and cons of limiting bicycling on the public sidewalks in the Plaza area.

**Recommendation to Staff:** Members' made minor suggestions for enhanced clarity, but overall supported the changes proposed since they were of the opinion that it might prevent/discourage bicycle accidents. It was noted that there should be further outreach for comments from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

**Item 4.3- Discussion, update and recommendation regarding driveway access to Safeway Store from Fifth Street West.**

**Contact: Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi**

Public Works Director/City Engineer Takasugi presented staff's report.

**Chair Haeuser opened the public comment.**

No Public Comments.

**Chair Haeuser closed the public comment.**

**Committee Discussion:** Members commended the Public Work's department for the improvements already made to the driveway access to the Safeway from Fifth Street West. Members discussed other possible options to address entering and exiting Safeway from Fifth Street West.

**Recommendation to Staff:** Continue discussion to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety at the crosswalk.

**Final Comments (General):**

Member Bouldt would like further consideration of agenda item 4.3 from the minutes of November 27, 2012. After committee discussion, Chairperson Haeuser suggested Mr. Bouldt propose something to present to the general plan, and that this was a political issue, political fight. Member Bouldt asked, "Is safety being trumped by political considerations?" He recommended Mr. Bouldt get the neighborhood involved to resolve, this is above our level, pass on to City Council.

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Adjournment:** Chair Haeuser made a motion to adjourn. Member Woodcock seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to be determined.

Approved:

  
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Darcy Proctor, Administrative Aide