



MINUTES
ATHERTON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009 AT 6:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 94 ASHFIELD ROAD

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers: Vice Mayor Kathy McKeithen, Councilmember Elizabeth Lewis

Committee Members: Lou Paponis, John Ruggeiro, Erv Ericksen, Larry Sweeney, Joan Solari

Vice Mayor McKeithen introduced the two new members of the Transportation Committee: Larry Sweeney and Joan Solari.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of March 10, 2009

Motion by Paponis, second by Ruggeiro to approve Item 2.0 The motion passed.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Sweeney, Solari)

3.0 COMMITTEE AND CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

McKeithen said that the City Manager was currently attending the Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting and there would be no City Manager's report.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Open discussion items not on agenda

Virginia Ruggerio, Atherton resident, informed the Committee that speeding on Stockbridge has gotten out of hand. Ruggeiro requested more Police presence on the Stockbridge Avenue

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: None

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS:

**6.1 CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND A
A CROSSWALK ON VALPARAISO AVENUE AT HOOVER STREET**

Duncan Jones reported that residents of Victoria Park are in favor of safer ways to cross Valparaiso Avenue to Downtown Menlo Park.

Discussion on what type of crosswalk would work best and possible options to get cars to yield to pedestrians took place.

Duncan Jones stated that staff recommends a traffic study to evaluate an in-roadway lighted crosswalk at Hoover Street, an in-roadway lighted crosswalk at Victoria Drive, and improvements at the El Camino Real/Valparaiso intersection and walking path to Victoria Drive.

Andrea Luskin, Victoria Lane, gave a brief visual presentation and said she was pleased with how familiar the Committee is with the situation.

Jan Mackenzie, Atherton resident, stated that she works at the Menlo Park School District and the schools are currently urging parents to let their children walk or ride bikes to school in order to lessen then congestion. MacKenzie said a lot of parents will not allow it because there is no safe way to cross.

Ed Quan, Atherton resident, said there is a growing concern in the neighborhood with this issue. Quan added that he gives credit to both Atherton and Menlo Park because it was more dangerous twenty years ago.

David Macado, Director of Operations at Menlo School, stated that the best thing to do is to put sidewalks in where the kids walk. He added that he is in favor of safer ways to cross Valparaiso Ave.

Jack Phillips, Atherton resident, thanked Atherton Council and staff for the new lanes on the Avenue.

Laura Bode, Atherton resident, understands that finances will be the main obstacle in getting this done and suggested looking into Caltran grants.

Vice Mayor McKeithen said funds are going to be the main issue. She added that the study will be recommended to Council for consideration.

Larry Sweeney said he appreciates the visuals on the issue. He suggested doing something inexpensive right away to show cars that they are not supposed to be in that area.

Duncan Jones suggested installing delineators for now since the Town has some in the maintenance yard.

Motion by Ericksen, second by Lewis to approve a traffic study be undertaken to evaluate: a) an in-roadway lighted crosswalk at Hoover Street; b) an in-roadway lighted crosswalk at Victoria Drive; or c) improvements at the El Camino Real/Valparaiso intersection and a walking path to Victoria Drive including Public Works to install delineators to make the corner safer and researching alternate funding mechanisms in the interim.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

6.2 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON WATKINS AVENUE

Jones informed the Committee that a request from Atherton resident Richard Moore was received to establish safety improvements on Watkins Ave.

Richard Moore gave a brief presentation on the list of safety improvements that he suggested be made.

Virginia Ruggiero requested that the Council set aside some money in the 2009-10 budget for street improvements.

John Ruggiero said surrounding Cities are making large amounts of money from the redflex cameras and suggested that Atherton do the same.

McKeithen requested that the draft redflex contracts be added to the next Agenda.

The Committee discussed radars and where they should be used. Sergeant Anthony Kockler said that certain streets need a survey to determine current speeds in order for a radar to be put up.

Motion by McKeithen, second by Lewis to recommend to City Council to paint the curb for a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00 and additionally to put illuminators at the curb openings.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

7.0 STAFF REPORTS:

7.1 Police Traffic Division - Monthly Reports for April 2009

Kockler reviewed the traffic report to the Committee.

McKeithen questioned why the speeding tickets have gone down since last year. Nielsen said that although there were only 24 tickets given there were a total of 73 written warnings.

7.2 Public Works Department

Jones informed the Committee that Menlo Park has received a request to lower the speed on Valparaiso Street to 35 mph. Jones added that the spring patching has been completed.

McKeithen requested an update on actions at the next meeting to include a “no through” traffic at Holbrook Lane. Jones said he will update the Committee at the next meeting.

8.0 SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

McKeithen adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa DellaSanta
Deputy City Clerk