

**MINUTES
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD**

7:00 p.m.

Thursday

May 21, 2009

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

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

ABSENT: None

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made by Chiara, seconded by McGowan, to accept the minutes of April 16, 2009. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Giannini, 23720 Beacon Street, appeared and expressed numerous traffic concerns. He complained about a lack of parking and traffic enforcement and gave several past examples of things that he believed to be violations that were not, in his opinion, properly addressed. Director Nebus requested Mr. Giannini contact the public safety department or himself directly when he has a concern. Mr. Giannini suggested the city redesign Shiawassee between Farmington Road and Power, start a civilian parking enforcement program and ban all residential street parking between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Mr. Giannini read a list of at least six intersections with what he believed to be landscape obstructions. He also referred to vehicles parked on the street which he believed should be parked in driveways. He also suggested the public safety department should enforce all signage and the letter of the law in every situation.

Chairperson Reynolds asked Mr. Giannini to submit his concerns in writing so that they could be properly researched and addressed and informed him that the redesign of Shiawassee was the result of extensive study over an extended period of time (dating back at least a couple of years) and that the Traffic and Safety Board will not be re-visiting the topic of the design of Shiawassee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Farmington and Freedom (traffic signal)
Director Nebus reported City Manager Pastue authorized Farmington to pay \$7,769.01, one half of the cost of a new low level "pole signal" for northbound Farmington at Freedom (northeast corner). Director Gushman has contacted Gary Piotkrowicz at the Oakland County Road Commission to add the project to their signal program. Director Nebus asked Mr. DeCorte to work with Mr. Piotkrowicz to make sure the signal is placed in the correct position to be seen by northbound Farmington Road drivers.

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- B. Grand River 35 MPH Sign
Director Nebus reported that Ahmad Azmoudeh at MDOT has ordered a new 35 mph sign. Director Gushman will have the sign installed.
- C. Cedars Parking
Director Nebus shared a diagram drawn by Mr. DeCorte depicting room for three cars to park in fifteen minute parking on Grove Street next to Cedars Restaurant. There had been prior discussion last month that there might be room for four cars. Director Nebus suggested no traffic control order should be issued until the change is monitored and evaluated.
- D. Our Lady of Sorrows (school traffic pattern)
Director Nebus shared a letter he sent to Principal Lupinacchi on April 30th. The letter confirms the traffic board's recommendations. The plan is expected to be implemented in the fall of 2009.
- E. Farmington Florist Pick Up Parking
Mr. DeCorte recommended against any new pick up parking along the east side of Farmington Florist. Cars backing out of public parking spaces to the east would not have the required distance to back out safely.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Mr. Tengler, 36491 Vicary Lane, appeared before the Traffic and Safety Board. Mr. Tengler wants the city to restrict parking to one side of the street in Chatham Hills subdivision, especially on curves, and any legal parking should be limited to three hours. Mr. Tengler suggested there are safety concerns because of no sidewalks, children playing and the inability to get 10' wide fire trucks down the street when cars are parked on both sides of the street. Mr. Tengler referenced parties, with twenty (20) or more vehicles parked on both sides of the street.

Chairperson Reynolds asked Mr. Tengler if the Chatham Hills homeowners association had passed a motion at a recent meeting where he expressed his concerns? Mr. Tengler replied "no", he had just shared his proposal and they suggested that he take his proposal to the city. Upon questioning, Mr. Tengler agreed that the homeowners association did not support his request and that he was not appearing on behalf of the homeowners association.

In response to several photos shown by Mr. Tengler of vehicles parked on both sides of the street, Mr. McGowan suggested that the car Mr. Tengler admitted parking in one photo was parked a considerable distance from the curb. Director Nebus shared that the fire trucks are 8' wide and only the high mirrors protrude from the side of the truck. Mr. DeCorte visited the subdivision and shared that the streets are 27' wide. If two cars (6' to 7' wide) were parked on opposite sides of the street, there would be 13' of the road available for other traffic, according to Mr. DeCorte.

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Mr. Tengler said that in considering his request, it would be insane and childish for the board to review accident data; that he (Mr. Tengler) would not listen to it. Mr. Reynolds said the accident history is relevant and would be considered by the board. Mr. DeCorte shared that there have been four vehicle accidents in Chatham Hills subdivision during the past three years. There was one right angle accident on Treehill and Saxony, a road run off on southbound Brittany Hills south of Grand River, and two vehicles backing out of driveways struck objects. One vehicle struck a parked car and another vehicle hit a mailbox.

One of Mr. Tengler's photos showed children playing in the driveway of a home. Mr. Tengler used this photo to illustrate his claim of the potential danger to children posed by vehicles parked in the street. Chairperson Reynolds asked Mr. Tengler if he had talked to the owner of the home to find out if the homeowner shared his concerns? Mr. Tengler responded that he had not and that he had no idea what the homeowner thought. Chairperson Reynolds asked Mr. Tengler how often the problem with vehicles parked as a result of parties occurred? Mr. Tengler responded that that had happened once in the past five years. Chairperson Reynolds informed Mr. Tengler that what he was doing, was asking the Traffic and Safety Board to solve a problem that does not exist and the homeowners do not support.

Mr. Leppanen shared that he lives in the subdivision and has never seen a problem. He expressed concern that no parking signs all over the neighborhood would be a distraction to drivers.

Director Nebus shared communications from several Chatham Hills residents who are opposed to Mr. Tengler's proposal. Chairperson Reynolds suggested Mr. Tengler contact the city to report abandoned automobiles or any other illegal parking, but the Traffic and Safety Board would not be taking any action in reference to his proposal.

B. Farmington Road, North of Eight Mile

Mr. DeCorte reported he communicated with Lt. DeGrande at the Farmington Hills Police Department about a problem expressed in a letter from Gretchen Guisbert. Mr. DeCorte said the Oakland County Road Commission will be repainting the double yellow lines on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile which are located in Farmington Hills. In reality, because Farmington Road slants to the west, the Farmington Hills city line is actually located along the curb on the east side of Farmington Road in this area and all north and southbound lanes are in Farmington Hills.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Nebus reported the Farmington Observer printed a photo and article about the new sign and map depicting the location of the pedestrian crosswalk button at Farmington and Alta Loma.

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Mr. DeCorte asked if anyone from the library has approached the city about a possible redesign of parking. The director said there was no response to the letter.

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Chiara, seconded by Mr. Lepannen to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Nebus
Public Safety Director