



**CITY OF ALBANY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
City Hall, Santiam Room
333 Broadalbin SW
Monday, December 2, 2013
10:00 a.m.**

Commission Members Present: Terry Crook, Ron Green, Chuck Kratch

Commission Members Absent: Peggy Kroessin (excused); Robert Fox (unexcused)

Staff Present: Ronald G. Irish, Transportation Systems Analyst; Irene Mann, PW Executive Assistant

Others Present: Janelle Lawrence (Executive Director of Oregon Impact); Nicole Charlson (Traffic Safety Coordinator –Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Tech Center)

CALL TO ORDER

Kratch called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 7, 2013, meeting were approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion why the meetings were every other month. Staff said the meetings can be held whenever the Commission would like to have them. The Commissioners also felt that that they needed to more pro-active and invest some of their time in addition to the meetings to traffic-related issues.

The Commissioners that were present decided to proceed with the annual nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Terry Crook was voted Chair and Ron Green was voted Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote of 3:0.

JANELLE LAWRENCE – OREGON IMPACT PRESENTATION

Lawrence explained the program and tools that were available to help stop impaired driving in the community. Her organization conducts education and awareness programs in schools and the community to heighten understanding of the issues, and to encourage safe decisions when getting behind the wheel. The organization is a non-profit, funded by donations and fines from DUII's.

Oregon Impact speakers are volunteers whose lives have been impacted by alcohol and DUII crashes. They describe their loss and sorrow as a result of such incidences and share their grief over losses caused by death, injuries, or separation from loved ones. They also represent the perspectives of those who work directly with crash or trauma scenes and victims, as well as offenders who personalize the DUII statistics, and put a face on the offense. The offenders share their feelings of responsibility and grief over their senseless crime.

The Oregon Impact programs include:

*Fatal Vision Impairment Goggles – that use special technology that allow the wearer to experience a realistic simulation of how alcohol impairs a person's balance, vision, reaction time, and judgment.

*Simulated Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE), a battery-powered vehicle that is presented on a driving course, controlled by a radar gun that can make the vehicle respond as if the drive was impaired from alcohol or other substances.

*Distract-a-Match 2 is a matching game that demonstrates the impact of distractions (radio, cell, texting) on reaction time and judgment.

*Mobile Crash Car Trailer – contains a vehicle that was involved in a fatal DUI crash. It allows individuals to see close up the results of one bad decision. In addition, the trailer serves as a resource for parents to start conversations with their children about the consequences of poor choices

*Operation Prom Night was designed with teens in mind. Oregon Impact collaborates with numerous area agencies and area schools to provide several hard-hitting “Fatal DUII Crash Simulations” around prom or homecoming time at area high schools each year. In addition, customized assemblies and class speakers are offered to schools re-enforcing their curriculum and educational efforts around safe driving, reinforcing the making of good choices, and refusal skills to peer pressure.

The Commission was impressed with the programs and Green will talk to Albany School Superintendent – Marie Delapoer as well as the Albany Fire and Police Departments. Kratch said he would also be available to help Green.

Traffic Control Device Evaluation Report

Kratch asked if the report was a ‘wish list’. He said none of the recommended changes seemed life threatening.

Irish agreed and said a few of the suggestions were ‘regulatory signs’ that needed to be changed and he had already submitted work orders to the City Street Maintenance Department to have the signs replaced. Other locations with recommended changes would be delayed due to construction of the new roundabout on Main Street and 2nd during the summer of 2014. Irish also reviewed the other suggested changes from the report.

There was a discussion about painting the railroad overpass on 1st Avenue. Irish said they could ask the railroad to paint it amore visible color, but the decision and work would be up to the railroad.

There was also discussion about how reflective the City’s signs are. Irish said he would check with the City Street Maintenance crew to see if Albany checks the reflectivity of their signs.

OLD BUSINESS

Crook asked for an update on the LBCC speed zone request. Irish said the school could send a petition to ODOT to look at the speed and they could ultimately change it. Charlson suggested additional police patrols and using the police speed reader-board at that location. Irish said that was only a temporary fix. He added it would cost ~\$25,000 for a sign with radar embedded in it.

Kratch asked about the construction of Lowe’s. Irish said they haven’t applied for permits but were scheduled to open the end of 2014.

Kratch asked to see the construction drawings of the roundabout on 2nd and Main.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commissioners requested a monthly meeting – the next meeting to take place in January.

Green discussed the dangerous left turn from NW Grandview Drive to NW Gibson Hill Road in North Albany. Irish explained about the utility pole and fence sitting on the property line. The only way to solve the vision issue is to purchase the five-feet of right-of-way to move the fence and have a clear line of sight to turn left. The Commission would like to further discuss this and forward a recommendation to the City Council to purchase the right-of-way.

Charlson discussed pedestrian fatalities at cross walks. She mentioned that seniors are less able to determine speed and distance to cross a street.

Irish forwarded the Oregon Impact Newsletter to the Commissioners.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., in the Periwinkle Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Mann, PW Executive Assistant