

Traffic and Safety Committee Meeting

April 5th, 2011 Minutes

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CITY OF
REXBURG
America's Family Community

Mayor Richard Woodland

Traffic and Safety Committee Members:

Rick Robbins-Chairman
Reed Nielsen-Vice Chair
Roscoe Orton
Stephen Smith
Eric Sundberg
Lyle Wakefield
Virginia Pratt
Erick Wills
Blake Garner
Patrick Bjornn

Bruce Sutherland-City Council Liaison
Stephen Zollinger – Staff Liaison/Attorney
John Millar – Staff Liaison/Public Works
Randy Lewis- Staff Liaison/Police Captain
Doug Barker-University Security Liaison
Natalie Schneider-City Staff/minutes

Those that were present: Reed Nielsen, Stephen Smith, Lyle Wakefield, Virginia Pratt, Blake Garner, Bruce Sutherland, Randy Lewis, John Millar, Natalie Schneider, DeeDee Tucker

Vice Chairman Reed Nielsen: opened the meeting at 5:15pm. He welcomed all those in attendance and thanked them for coming.

Review and Approve of the March 1st, 2011 Minutes:

This item was tabled due to the fact that there was not enough committee members present to form a quorum.

Unfinished / Old Business: Follow up on Ordinance 1062-City Council Discussion. The City Council has revised Ordinance 1062 and it will go before them for a second reading tomorrow night, April 6th, 2011. The following is what is proposed. **Drivers:** *While operating a motor vehicle within the City of Rexburg, no person shall use a hand-held wireless telephone, cellular telephone, or any other wireless device for texting.* **Pedestrians:** *No pedestrian shall use a hand-held wireless telephone, cellular telephone, or any other wireless device for texting while crossing a public right-of-way in the City of Rexburg.*

The committee supports the concept of regulating the use of hand-held wireless telephones and other wireless devices while operating a motor vehicle; however they were not supportive of regulating pedestrian use. Discussion took place concerning pedestrians within crosswalks using earpieces and other electronic devices. More education needs to be given to pedestrians informing them they are required to enter into a crosswalk safely and they need to be held liable for their actions. The committee didn't like the idea of having another ordinance that is not enforced.

Reed Nielsen asked if the ordinance has been approved. **Natalie Schneider** read the ordinance for clarification and asked John if he had any comments from Council Meeting. **John Millar** reported from the Council Meeting that the Ordinance was submitted for a first reading and there were not a lot of changes made during the meeting. Virginia Pratt felt that the verbiage of "Cellular telephone" should not even be in the ordinance as it is redundant.

Discussion was made in regards to **Adam Stout** not being in attendance and wondering who the current representative is, Adam Stout or **Bruce Sutherland**. Clarification was made when Bruce arrived and he is responsible to fulfill the duties as our City Council Liaison.

New Business: Discussion took place concerning the new Aquatic Facility traffic and pedestrian concerns. The concern is that there will be an increase in pedestrian traffic, including children on bikes. One of the areas of concern was near Broulim's, the intersection of 1st North and also the intersection of 2nd North. **John Millar** stated that these area will be monitored and if needs be the City will put in necessary crosswalk lights. Discussion switched to the proposed opening date on the Aquatic Center. **John Millar** said that this is Idaho and that it will

be determined by the weather. If we have a nice spring they will meet the deadline and opening date at the Aquatic Center in the end of May 2011. **Virginia Pratt** asked about the bike path that is behind the park and if it would be cleaned up or not. **John Millar** assured the committee that it would be hydro seeded; fencing added and cleaned up prior to the park opening.

Discussion also took place concerning the Henderson job site located at the corner of 7th South and Second West. **John Millar** stated that the plans are out and that he hopes to be working on the 7th South project in a few weeks. The project should be completed in about month. **Natalie Schnieder** shared that the majority of complaints are coming from older generations that like to walk and jog in this area and the fact that there is no pedestrian sidewalk on the East side of 2nd West. There was a dirt path on the property that was used before Henderson's started construction. Natalie has agreed to meet with Logan Bingham from Headwaters Construction to arrange signing. The signs will notify pedestrian traffic to use the existing sidewalk on the West side of 2nd West. Bill Blair with the City Street Department has agreed to paint a crosswalk at 6th South by the end of this week. Increased issues are due to construction parking and traffic.

The discussion turned to the intersection at the new high school as it is a dark intersection. **John Millar** said that the Council has approved him to move on installation of 15 street lights throughout the city. **Bruce Sutherland** was wondering if the City had any ideas in regards to selling the property in front of the new high school. John Millar said that they would and it would most likely be businesses that would be able to use students as interns.

Eric Sundberg had a proposal sent to him by a student. The student is proposing an additional crosswalk at an intersection in the city. The committee had a hard time figuring out when and where the locations were from the lack of description in the proposal. **Eric Sundberg** is going to email the student back and request more information and report the new information at our next meeting.

Report on projects: **John Millar** reported on the Barney Dairy Road project. The curb, gutter and sidewalk will be put in on the corner of Barney Dairy Road and 3rd East. The Committee reviewed handouts showing the approved LID for Barney Dairy Road. The property owners will be responsible for the funding of this project. Upgrades of the property will be completed this year. Estimated cost is around \$31,000 not the larger previous proposed amount as there was a clerical error.

John Millar stated that the city will be blocking the intersection by the middle school for the new sewer lines to be installed. Traffic will be rerouted through Trejo. The Yellowstone Hwy will be slowed to two lane traffic switching sides as they complete one and move to the next.

Heads up: The public hearing to review the fee changes including the new Riverside Park Aquatic pool fees is set at 7:30 P.M. on April 6, 2011. Fees are proposed at \$5 for adults and \$2.75 for children. **Bruce Sutherland** verified the fees are to be revenue neutral. Reed Nielsen expressed concerns in regards to the citizens being able to pay the fees proposed. **Bruce Sutherland** relayed the comparability of Ross Park and other facilities in our area.

Report from Committee Members concerning Safety Issues:

Blake Garner voiced a concern about the private roads that are in the Meadows Town Home division. He is concerned with the speed being traveled up and down even with the speed bumps. **Randy Lewis** recommended an increase in the drive through from the Police Department. Blake Garner will call the Police Department with dates and times the Meadows need a "Special Watch" from the patrol officers.

Overall discussions: California Stops, meeting time conflicts, traveling food vendors, inattentive driving vs. reckless driving, and the difference between bicycles and vehicles of force. The committee is against the Ordinance 1062.

Meeting adjourned.