

Traffic and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2009

In attendance:

Mayor Shawn Larsen	Jim Hamer – BYU-Idaho	Kristy Geisler – City of Rexburg
Stephen Zollinger – City of Rexburg	Graydon Burton	Kendra Decker – City of Rexburg
Randy Schwendiman	Lynn Archibald	
Trudy Porter	Roscoe Orton	
Capt. Randy Lewis – Rexburg Police	John Millar – City of Rexburg	
Steven Smith	Reed Nielsen – BYU-Idaho	

Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Discussion about Street Lighting on East portion of 2nd East

Mayor Larsen asked John Millar to discuss the lighting around the BYU-Idaho campus. John went on to explain that BYU-Idaho is working to extend the lighting to the entire perimeter of campus. There are a few problem areas for pedestrian safety including 2nd East and the specific area from the girl's dorms to the Ridge apartment complex. Currently, the wattage of the streetlights is 70 watt and BYU-Idaho would like it to be increased to 400 watt. BYU-Idaho is willing to put up the cost. Although it is a temporary solution, they are working towards having a long term solution by summer.

Randy Schwendiman said that the problem is that there are no lights at the crosswalks. And Stephen Zollinger says that it part of the long term plan that the City is working with BYU-Idaho.

Reed Nielsen had a question of whether or not the City would be replacing the fixtures and John Millar explained that the University will be purchasing the heads and the fixture will become property the City of Rexburg.

Update of City of Rexburg Bicycle Ordinance

Doug Stutz will present to the Council, during the next Council Meeting which falls on February 4, 2009.

Share the Road Campaign Update

Kristy Geisler shared with the committee that the information about the campaign has been given to BYU-Idaho. The University will be putting their logo with the City logo on all the posters to ensure that the students see that the City and the University are working together on this project (passed around Share the Road Campaign posters). There is campaign billboard north of town near Horkley's. The Share the Road campaign has secured a new billboard location near Les Schwab, which is the entrance to a busy pedestrian area. They are now looking for sponsorships, they have brought the posters to give to businesses to display in offices. Kristy met with Merv Brown from BYU-Idaho and he said the most effective form of advertising would be at the crosswalks. Kristy also went on to say that the police officer traffic stops is the educational portion of the campaign. And finally, they are waiting for the summer months to bring the campaign into full swing.

Discussion of Proposed Street Light Utility Ordinance

John Millar passed around a Utility Lighting Map explaining the lighting trends throughout the City. John explained that the lights vary randomly. John explained that in subdivisions there is uniform lighting and

while the Evergreen subdivision is 250 watt there are others are 100-150 watt. John encouraged the committee to take the information on the map and take a drive and get a feel for the level of lighting they feel should be the proper lighting. He gave a few examples of the different lights, BYU-Idaho is typical university lighting, and Main Street is 250 watt used for a downtown feel. John would like to focus future funds in the high traffic areas.

John went on to say that the number one priority is to make people feel safe but there are many reasons for additional lighting. The average cost per pole is \$2,000-\$5,000.

The discussion about streetlights continued and Reed Nielsen reiterates the number one priority is safety. He said that foot traffic is important and asks the question is West Main has high foot traffic. Randy Schwendiman questioned who pays for the lights and John said it was the developers. The discussion went on as Randy Schwendiman asked about the cost to maintain the lights and John Millar said the cost per power is about \$8 per pole per month.

John Millar encouraged the committee to determine the street lighting wattages. He asked the question: can the City afford and legislate certain lighting around the City? John continued and asked the committee to get a feel for 100, 150, 400 watts. John said the goal is to see the intensity, and then determine what level it should be around the City. He said the committee should be seeking prioritization.

Reed Nielsen shared his concern about whether or not the residents will be bothered with an increase in wattage on street, he wondered if the City was moving away from a City ordinance. He said that every intersection in the City needs to have better lighting and that eventually it all turns into a personal responsibility and there is only so much that the committee can produce.

Stephen Zollinger pointed out that the last accident was on well lit corner and that the City must do all that is practically necessary, and if the problems continue it must go beyond rational and continue to do whatever it takes to prevent accidents.

Mayor Larsen said that the committee can help with prioritizing the projects that get completed in the City so things can get done. BYU-Idaho has been very receptive and open to sharing information and ideas. They have hired a consultant. The Mayor also gave the assignment to take the map that John Millar passed out and look at the lights and assist the situation.

Cell Phone Ordinance Discussion

Stephen Zollinger shared with the committee that there are two bills going before legislature and that an agreement should be made by the end of February or March. The committee agreed that they would let the cell phone ordinance sit until it goes before the legislature.

Randy Schwendiman commented how he had heard that drivers will have to drive with a headset to free up their hands.

On the Police Department level, pull over if the driver is not attentive.

Graydon Burton brought up the Plan on Pioneer Road and the Mayor said that plan still stands; they are planning on making the road straight putting a light on the Pioneer Road and Hwy 33 intersection. By

making the road straight it would create more parking for the neighboring park. John Millar said that the Engineering department is putting the final touches on the plan.

The traffic light would be part of the State Wide Transportation Plan and the City will participate with the State and the money would come out of the Safety Fund.

Mayor Larsen said that the traffic light would help gap the traffic, Pioneer Road and Main Street is the most dangerous intersection in Rexburg.

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes:

Motion to Approve – Reid Nielsen

Seconded – Trudy Porter

Minutes were approved.

Discussion about Snow Removal

Graydon Burton started a discussion about the snow removal around the City, and that ice is causing problems for residents when they want to shovel their walks. The sun exposure is causing too much ice.

Mayor Larsen said that this year there have been more complaints about sidewalk snow than ever before.

John Millar said there is about 60,000 feet of sidewalk that is adjacent to the street and it costs about \$100,000 to remove. The City is trying to keep sidewalks in school areas for young children.

Graydon Burton commended the City and the street department for their efforts.

Meeting Adjourned.