MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION

DECEMBER 16, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the City of Peoria's Traffic Commission convened at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at City Hall, Room 404, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, and was called to order by Chairman John Haverhals.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order showed the following Traffic Commission Members in attendance: Chairman John Haverhals, Commissioner Mary Jane Crowell, Commissioner Joe Hudson, Commissioner Steve Van Winkle, Commissioner Curphy Smith, Commissioner Brandon Lott, Commissioner Annette Mills, Commissioner Pat Sullivan and Commissioner Thomas Harrington – 9.

Others in attendance included David Barber, Director of Public Works; Nick Stoffer, Acting City Engineer; Members of the Media and Stephanie Stapleton, Traffic Engineering Administrative Specialist.

MINUTES

Commissioner Crowell moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Traffic Commission held on November 18, 2008; seconded by Commissioner Hudson.

The minutes were approved by viva voce vote.

WELCOME

Chairman Haverhals welcomed Thomas Harrington to the Traffic Commission. Commissioner Harrington was appointed to the Commission on December 15, 2008 and will serve a one-year term.

ITEM NO. 1 DISCUSSION REGARDING NEWSPAPER BOXES AT BUS STOPS

Acting City Engineer Stoffer stated that complaints had been received concerning the newspaper boxes at downtown corners that conflicted with accessibility to bus stops, especially for disabled users. Specifically cited was the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Main Street in front of the Peoria County Courthouse, said Mr. Stoffer. He explained that in 2006 the former Assistant City Manager, Craig Whitehead, evaluated this matter regarding the placement of boxes, etc., at bus stops, but that he was not aware of the end result.

Mr. Stoffer stated that he had contacted CityLink and asked that a representative attend the next meeting to discuss bus stop requirements. He said he would contact the City's Legal Department to review the ordinance as it pertains to newspaper boxes within the City's right-of-

way. He stated that he would also be working with the Permit Engineer to review the newspaper boxes located closest to the bus stop and crosswalk.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the boxes resembled newspaper stands, but they were filled with various ads. He had collected several ads and distributed them for the Commission to review. He said he felt that the boxes were an eyesore and needed to be removed.

In discussion with Commissioner Sullivan, Mr. Stoffer stated that he had contacted Randy Ray, the City's Corporation Counsel, to review the ordinance regarding this matter. He stated he would have an update at the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Lott questioned the role of the Commission regarding this matter.

Director Barber stated that he felt this was a right-of-way use issue and not a traffic-related problem. He explained that the newspaper boxes were regulated by the First Amendment and felt that prohibiting them to have the stands on the street would create additional problems; therefore, he felt that the City should review this matter and review the City Code to make sure that it is up-to-date on the issue. He felt that, from a safety point of view, the City reserves the right to move the boxes if they were obstructing the bus stops, or creating traffic and pedestrian hazards.

Acting City Engineer Stoffer stated that additional information regarding this matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM NO. 2 ELECTION OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION OFFICERS

Chairman Haverhals stated the terms for both President and Vice President had expired. He stated that he had recently retired from Bradley University and would continue to serve as Chairman only if there were no candidates interested in serving in this capacity.

Chairman Haverhals opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Crowell moved to nominate Commissioner Annette Mills as President of the Traffic Commission for a term of one year.

Commissioner Mills declined the nomination. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Mills moved to nominate Commissioner Pat Sullivan as President of the Traffic Commission for a term of one year; seconded by Commissioner Van Winkle.

There being no other candidates nominated, nominations for President were closed.

> **Motion** to approve Commissioner Sullivan as President for the term of one-year was approved by viva voce vote.

Commissioner Sullivan moved to nominate Commissioner Hudson as Vice President of the Traffic Commission for a term of one year; seconded by Commissioner Harrington

There being no other candidates nominated, nominations for Vice President were closed.

Motion to approve Commissioner Hudson as Vice President for the term of one-year was approved by viva voce vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **SHERIDAN TRIANGLE BUSINESS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT**

  As previously requested, Acting City Engineer Stoffer distributed a copy of the Sheridan Triangle Master Plan at the December meeting.

- **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN**

  Director Barber stated that the 2009 CIP Project listing would be distributed at the next scheduled Traffic Commission Meeting. He stated that The Sheridan Triangle Business District Improvement and the Main Street Traffic Study were not included in the 2009 CIP and that there would still be some additional discussions with the Council to identify projects that would be addressed within a five year period.

- **WASHINGTON STREET AND ADAMS STREET**

  Commissioner Sullivan stated that he thought the Washington Street project would be budgeted in 3-4 block increments and felt that there would be some funding available at a later date. Director Barber stated that this was IDOT's jurisdiction and that a meeting has been scheduled for January to discuss this project further. He also mentioned that the public participation process for the project would begin in January.

- **PROJECT LIST FOR POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STIMULUS PACKAGE LEGISLATION**

  In discussion with Chairman Haverhals, Director Barber stated that he had submitted a four-page priority list to the City Council relative to the possible economic stimulus program. He stated that we have several large projects in our Community Investment Plan such as Main Street and the Sheridan Road Triangle, which the City would not be ready to move forward on at this time. He stated that they would be forwarding this information to the Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County Planning Commission and State Representatives and Senators.

  In discussion with Commissioner Sullivan, Director Barber stated that the priority list consisted of City projects. He further explained that the Tri-County Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce and the Sanitary District would handle the regional projects. He said those entities were putting together a comprehensive project listing that would include many state projects.

- **PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE FROM BERKELEY AVENUE TO GLEN OAK AVENUE PROJECTS**

  Commissioner Hudson questioned whether some homes would be relocated for this project. Mr. Stoffer stated that none of the homes in this area would be relocated and that several of the properties would lose some right-of-way for the project. Director Barber stated that the agreement with Clark Dietz was approved and construction would likely start in 2010.

- **MAIN STREET STUDY**

  Chairman Haverhals stated that he had spoke with a representative from Bradley University regarding the Main Street Study and he felt that some of the details were vague. By restricting the left turn he felt that motorists would be forced into the residential areas and cause additional traffic in the Uplands.

  In discussion with Chairman Haverhals, Mr. Stoffer explained that these concerns were discussed with the City Council along with Bradley University and the Uplands Neighborhood Association.

Commissioner Van Winkle stated that he would like to see the Traffic Commission more involved in the review process of City roadway projects that involve traffic engineering issues, as well as addressed traffic concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Traffic Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Scheduled Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2009** at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall, Suite 404.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Hudson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission; seconded by Commissioner Van Winkle.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

John Haverhals, Chairperson	Nick Stoffer, Acting City Engineer

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