

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
November 2, 2009 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Woods, Chair; Ken Miller, Vice-Chair; Scott Criqui; Robert Hagen; Dan Harden; Richard Heckler; Robin Smith; and John Ziegelmeier, Jr.

MEMBER ABSENT: Jason Novotny

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

Chair Jim Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, October 5, 2009.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request to establish a 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT on Lincoln Street between 2nd Street & 7th Street.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Commissioner Smith noted that there is a sidewalk along the south side of the street between 4th Street & 7th Street.

Public comment:

Alain Deroulette, 434 Lincoln Street: There are 14 children living between 4th Street & 5th Street actively playing; when I found out the speed limit was 30 mph I was shocked and wrote this letter to the Traffic Safety Commission; there have been incidents where my mailbox was broken twice; I would like to propose reducing the speed limit to 25 mph.

James Dick, 189 Pinecone Drive: My daughter recently bought a house on Lincoln Court, and I have a 6-year-old grandson that rides his bike to school every day; with the work on 2nd Street, traffic has exploded along Lincoln Street; I certainly would support lowering the speed limit on Lincoln Street; but I also think there should be some STOP signs; our dog was recently hit along Lincoln Street and had to have surgery on her hip.

Commissioner Heckler noted that STOP signs could not be addressed since they were not a part of the original request and were not a part of the agenda.

Commissioner Smith noted that the North Lawrence Improvement Association also supported the request.

Commissioner Heckler stated that with the narrow street a slightly lower speed limit might help but it would only be as good as the enforcement.

Commissioner Harden: My advice is that lowering the speed limit is only ceremonial; the signs go up and you feel good about it for a few days but you will continue to have the same situation you have today. If you want to slow people down, you have to put physical barriers in.

Commissioner Miller asked if there had been any recent traffic counts and if the street would qualify for traffic calming; Woosley advised that the traffic volume ranged from 800-1000 vehicles per day which on a local street would not qualify for traffic calming, but the speed of the traffic would qualify in most of the blocks.

Commissioner Heckler: Since the North Lawrence Improvement Association supports a lower speed limit, they would probably support traffic calming measures to reduce the speed of traffic. I would suggest we table this item and let the neighborhood determine whether they would like to present other measures.

Commissioner Smith: I would support lowering the speed limit to 25; it may not solve the problem but I think it would help it.

Commissioner Harden: I think we need a solution; they have a problem; lowering the speed limit is not a solution, it's a ceremonial thing; they need a solution.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HECKLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, TO TABLE THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON LINCOLN STREET BETWEEN 2ND STREET & 7TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED 5-3.