

ASTORIA TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Astoria City Hall

April 22, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

President Nemlowill called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: President Zetty Nemlowill, Vice President McLaren Innes, Thor Norgaard, Ron Williams, Peter Gimre, David Pearson, and Sean Fitzpatrick

Staff Present: Community Development Director / Assistant City Manager Brett Estes, Planner Rosemary Johnson, City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard, Police Sergeant Brian Ayd, City Engineer Jeff Harrington, and City Engineer Technician Steve Ruggles. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-President Innes called for corrections to the minutes of January 28, 2014. There were none.

Vice President Innes moved that the Traffic Safety Committee approve the minutes of January 28, 2014 as noted, seconded by Commissioner Pearson. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 4(a): Hamburg Site Distance Improvements Update

Engineer Harrington stated Staff considered the concerns of the four citizens on Hamburg Street and has taken every possible action within the City's power to improve the situation and achieve the maximum sight distance possible. He took photos from the driver's view turning off Hamburg towards the roundabout because it was difficult to think about the sight distance from Hamburg unless one drove through the area. The improvements included:

- He asked the Parks Department to trim tree limbs to improve sight distance. The Parks Department trimmed as many limbs as they could without damaging the trees. Being a fixed object, the "Welcome to Astoria" sign could not be modified.
- He noted a comment made by Linda Stevens about an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) reader board for the bridge painting project, which is expected to continue for three more years. He contacted the project manager about relocating the sign for the upcoming construction season and he agreed to try to move the reader board back towards the New Youngs Bay Bridge.
- The Astoria Police Department and Oregon State Police have been trying to mitigate speeding, which has been an issue in the area, but were asked to refrain from parking in the Hamburg area. The Police indicated they will be more conscious about how their parking habits affect the sight distance and will park further up on Hamburg to do speed enforcement.
- He has spoken with the four residents, who were pleased with the action taken, and also invited the residents to contact him via phone or email with any additional concerns.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Drew Herzig, 628 Klaskanine Avenue, Astoria, noted he had been attending Traffic Safety Committee meetings for more than a year, even before being elected to City Council. When elected, he attended a League of Oregon Cities' training session for elected officers where he learned that as an elected official, he was not giving up any rights as a citizen of the United States. He did not feel he was infringing on any hierarchies by attending this meeting. He requested that anyone who believed his presence was abusive, coercive, or taking advantage of his

position in some way speak directly to him about the issue. He believed people attend the meetings to look at problems and try to solve them together and he believed in democracy. He attended because he wanted to be part of addressing the issues, but if people feel that is wrong, please let him know. He intended to continue attending the meetings because traffic safety is one of his concerns. However, he did not want to attend if others see him as being abusive or coercive.

President Nemlowill responded that she has never felt Mr. Herzig's presence was abusive or coercive. She believed that Mr. Herzig brought up the Hamburg issue because of concerned citizens in his ward. She has always appreciated his attendance and has never thought he was abusive in any way.

Mr. Herzig reiterated that he would appreciate any concerns be brought to him.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to convene the Planning Commission Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:



Community Development Director/Assistant City
Manager