

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
6:00 P.M., August 24, 2020
GLADSTONE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members of the Committee: Linda Cosgrove, Len Nelson, Yvonne McNeil, Andrew Labonte – Chair, Bill Osburn – Vice-Chair. Council Liaison – Randy Ripley.

1. Call to Order- Chair Labonte

Roll Call- Executive Assistant Kristi Walls

- a. Present:
- b. Absent:

2. Approval of February 24, 2020 Minutes – Chair Labonte

3. Business from the Board – Chair Labonte

- a. Webster Road (Curve Sign)
- b. Recap of Committee Work Session
- c. Painted Intersections (Linda Cosgrove)
- d. Idea's to raise money for purchasing Traffic Safety equipment

4. Roundtable Discussion – Board

5. Police Department Updates - Chief Schmerber

6. Community Input – Visitors: This is an opportunity for members of the audience to bring to the Commission's attention any item not otherwise listed on the Agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Speakers may not yield their time to others. To speak during this time, please email kwalls@gladstone.oregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on August 24, 2020 with your topic of discussion and telephone number.

7. Adjourn

Per the Governor's Executive Order 20-16, regarding compliance with Oregon's public meeting laws, this meeting will be held electronically by Zoom. To join the meeting, please follow the instructions on the next page:

Continued...

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Members of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board, staff and public have access to this call.

If members of the public would like to comment on an agenda item, please email your comments to kwalls@gladstoneoregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) August 24, 2020.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Board will have Business from the Audience at the end of the meeting. To speak during this time, please email kwalls@gladstone.oregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on August 24, 2020 with your topic of discussion and telephone number.

GLADSTONE TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES of February 24, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Andrew Labonte, Linda Cosgrove, Len Nelson, Yvonne McNeil, Bill Osburn

ABSENT:

Clair Coy

STAFF:

Kristi Walls, Executive Assistant; John Schmerber, Police Chief

1. Call to Order – Introductions

Chief Schmerber mentioned that there are two vacant positions on this Board – they will be opening up for volunteers soon.

2. Approval of January 27, 2020 Minutes:

Yvonne McNeil made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Osburn. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Business from the Board:

- A. 3-5 Year Traffic Safety Plan
- B. Transportation Plan for Glen Echo
- C. Traffic Safety Plan pertaining to Route 99E & Arlington Intersection
- D. Tri-Met Bus Shelters top 5-10 Usage Bus Stops

Len Nelson said that with new structures, such as the new City Hall/Police Department, there will be an increase in traffic and we aren't geared for that. Chief Schmerber said he doesn't see any change in what they are doing in regard to traffic enforcement – they are highly visible and very active.

Bill Osburn said they need to implement some of the things from the TSP – funding should be in their goals to get a running start on things. Linda Cosgrove said the 99E/Arlington project has been attached to the Metro ballot measure that is coming up in May. It was agreed to write a letter of support for the City Council. Chief Schmerber recommends that the board continues pushing those TSP projects forward and making those recommendations to the City Council as suggestions for the future because they all have pedestrian safety ties to them.

There was discussion regarding the construction of the senior housing units on Webster Road. Chair Labonte feels that one thing they could do this year is to reduce the speed on Oatfield Road – it's a low-cost project. Chief Schmerber said they would have to look at the rules that pertain to that change and Mr. Whynot would be the best person to answer that question. He suggested bringing it up at the Council work session.

There was discussion regarding the sewer work that is going to be done on Glen Echo, increased traffic that will be coming, etc. There is already a lot of pedestrian traffic and parked cars in the area.

There was discussion regarding the criteria for bus shelters. This will be discussed at the Council work session.

There was discussion regarding the Downtown Plan/Portland Avenue. Everyone agreed that they support diagonal parking.

4. Roundtable Discussion:

Linda Cosgrove said she has heard that other Traffic/Safety Boards have had fund raisers for the Police Department to buy particular pieces of equipment – she was wondering if that was something they would be interested in doing. Chief Schmerber said he has reached out to other organizations regarding the purchase of another speed trailer (\$2,000 - \$2,500). It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Yvonne McNeil said she met with the Chief and they went over the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration calendar campaign and what they would like to promote using social media, newsletters, etc. There was discussion regarding the content of the Chief's Message. Chief Schmerber said they submit monthly reports that go to the City Council – they are all available online. They are going to put the information on the City/Police Department's website with a link to the Traffic Safety Board so everyone will have access.

Chair Labonte said they discussed a meeting time change at the last meeting – he discussed it with the Mayor, etc. and it looks like they can move to a 6:00 p.m. meeting starting after the work session.

Yvonne McNeil made a motion to change the meeting start time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Linda Cosgrove. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Labonte asked how they would move forward with the program for police officers to hand out helmets to younger children. Chief Schmerber said the Kiwanis supplies them with helmets but they need to make sure there is some training provided to the officers pertaining to fitting the helmets. He would like to add this as one of the goals for the year and partner with the Traffic Safety Board. They could piggy back it onto the Community Festival, Fourth of July, bicycle rodeos, etc. There was further discussion on this topic.

Chair Labonte said he has concerns regarding pedestrian safety around John Wetten during the morning drop-off time – there are a lot of people in the area of Exeter, across from the Gladstone Community Center – dozens of kids running mid-block, cars coming out from the school, etc. Chief Schmerber said he has talked to the SRO and he has talked with the school. He recommends getting a liaison from this Board, tie it into the schools, and see where they can help and see if there are any funding mechanisms/grant money available for the Safe Routes to School program. Yvonne McNeil volunteered to help with the schools. Linda Cosgrove said she heard that the high school had a volunteer program where some of their students were going to Wetten to help during the morning drop-off and afternoon release. It is unknown if that is still happening. Chief Schmerber said there is a lot of value to this idea and he suggested putting it down as one of their goals. There was further discussion on this topic.

Bill Osburn said a friend of his has seen a lot of pedestrian crossing violations. Chief Schmerber said if he could get a specific intersections/times they can include that in their missions.

5. Police Department Updates – Chief Schmerber:

Traffic Crash Update:

A.
He

provided statistics from 2018. He doesn't feel that they have a high volume of crashes in the City of Gladstone. He will gather additional information regarding the locations of the crashes for the next meeting.

B. Media:

He wants to get their messages out there – newsletters, Facebook, etc. He said he needs to learn how to tweet. He wants to create an inbox for the Police Department's website that's tied to the Traffic Safety Advisory Board to give community members a place to give input regarding where their issues are.

He wants to develop a strategy to increase community participation in meetings. He wants to deliver what the community wants – they don't want to punish the community; they want to change behavior.

He likes the idea of attending other cities' traffic safety meetings to get different ideas, different collaborations/how we can work together.

6. Community Input:

Stephanie Phipps lives on Valley View Road/Jennings Avenue - she said the traffic is really heavy at the top of Jennings hill and there have been some crashes there as well. She would like to have a stop sign there (similar to Thiessen Road) and a pedestrian crosswalk near the Sherwood neighborhood. Bill Osburn believes that Jennings is a County road – but this item is in the Traffic Safety Plan. He brought up the issue of no sidewalks on Jennings to the County Traffic & Safety Board. Chief Schmerber said there are certain rules that apply to putting in traffic calming devices.

Veronica Rickle lives on E. Arlington Street – she would like to request a stop sign on Arlington at Harvard to create a four-way stop. She said there is a crosswalk on one side there now, but it needs to be repainted. She said when you are driving it is hard to see if there is someone waiting at either corner. Chief Schmerber said he will bring this up and see what can be done. He said they could also do some enforcement there as well.

Veronica also wanted Chief Schmerber to know that there is plenty of semi-truck traffic on Arlington early in the morning; between 4:30 a.m. – 6:30 a.m. Chief Schmerber said on March 10th he is putting forth a resolution on behalf of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board and the Police Department calling for truck routes to be on I-205 and McLoughlin Blvd./Highway 99E and local deliveries only east-west, but no pass-through allowed.

7. Business from the Board:

Chair Labonte asked if it was time to start discussing the Community Fair and their table there. He suggested making this an agenda item for the April meeting.

8. Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.