City of Rowlett
Traffic and Safety Commission
Official Minutes of November 20, 2008

1. Call meeting to order.

   Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Melvin Warren. Present were Chairman Melvin Warren, Vice-Chairman Bill Barber, John Collis, Leisa Peebles, Wendy Huckabee, James Moseley, Interim Fire Chief Don Poovey, Police Chief Matt Walling, Police Lieutenant Steve Ferrie, and Street Department Superintendant Robbin Webber.

2. Consider approving the minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting.

   The minutes of the October 16, 2008 were reviewed. No corrections or changes were suggested. The October 16, 2008 minutes were approved as written.

5. Discussion of changing residential speed limits to 25 Mph.

   Due to citizen Chris Belcher being in attendance, Item 5 was discussed prior to other items without citizen input.

   Mr. Belcher lives on Pinehurst Dr., and stated that motorists are speeding in excess of 30 Mph on Pinehurst. Mr. Belcher believes that the problem is due to a lack of awareness rather than motorists intentionally speeding. Mr. Belcher stated there are statistics that indicate that a 25 Mph speed limit is safer than a 30 Mph speed limit and recommended the city implement the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 program and reduce the speed limit on all residential streets to 25 Mph. The default speed limit for residential streets is 30 Mph if the speed limit is not posted, but the Texas Transportation Code allows for municipalities to reduce the speed limit of residential streets to 25 Mph on approval of the council. If approved, the 25 Mph speed limit would have to be posted on all residential streets in order to be enforceable.

   The two speed surveys, one conducted on 7/17/2008 and the other conducted on 11/17/2008, showed 12 vehicles traveling 41 to 45 Mph (7 on 7/17/08 and 5 pm 11/17/08). The 85th percentile of both surveys ranged from 33 Mph to 35 Mph. The Commission, as well as Mr. Belcher believed that this issue was an awareness issue due to Pinehurst Dr., only leading to other residential streets in the Waterview subdivision. The Commission recommended that Mr. Belcher bring this issue up at the next Home Owners Association meeting and publish this information in the HOA newsletter to bring awareness to the situation. In addition, Lt. Ferrie advised he would position the speed trailer on Pinehurst Dr., to bring awareness to the speeding issue.

The Commission also advised Mr. Belcher that if he purchased the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 awareness signs and paid for installation of the signs, he could have them installed on his property.

3. Review of Commission goals.

   No new goals recommended and no action taken on review of Commission goals.

4. Discussion of on street parking.

   John Collis inquired as to the ordinance concerning trailer parking on streets. Mr. Collis was advised that trailers were not permitted to be parked on the street.

   Mr. Barber mentioned that a resident parks a vehicle too close to the intersection of Carla and Miller. Mr. Barber was advised that a motorist is prohibited from parking within 30 feet from an intersection.

   The Commission recommended that the Police Department investigate placing this type of information in the water bill brochures and or the city's web site. Chief Walling advised officers will look into the options available.

6. PGBT Eastern Extension Construction update.

   All sections have been bid and awarded (NTTA is overseeing 4 sections and TxDOT is overseeing the Hubbard bridge section and I-30 interchange). The tree removal for Section XXX is complete and the right-of-way clearing is continuing. The City utility relocation is progressing near Merritt Road. A Community Meeting is being held on 11-20-08 at the Rowlett Community Centre at 7:00 pm to give the public an overview of what to expect during construction of Section XXX. The City approved a staging area agreement for the contractor to use at the Kirby Road elevated water tank site. The contractor is setting up the staging area. The City, design engineer, and NTTA are meeting with high school officials to finalize the traffic control plans in the area of the high school in an effort to minimize delay as construction progresses near the high school.

7. Future agenda items.

   President George Bush Turnpike Eastern Extension Construction update (monthly).
   Discussion of TxDOT Impaired Driving Mobilization incentive award.
   Discussion of TxDOT year long traffic safety grant for 08/09 budget year.
   Discussion of obstructed view in medians due to shrubs and trees on Lakeview Pkwy.
   Discussion of Concealed Handgun License (CHL) policy in government buildings.

Discussion of security awareness for churches and businesses.
New goals and review current goals.

8. Public Announcements.

The Commission agreed that the December 18, 2008 meeting will not be held due to the upcoming holidays. The next meeting of the Traffic and Safety Commission will be held on January 15, 2009.

Adjourn

Chairman Warren adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.

Melvin Warren

Melvin Warren, Chairman