
**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, was called to order by Commissioner Bieber at 7:00 PM in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lukes.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Present: Commissioner Chris Bieber, Commissioner Susan Caskey, Commissioner Anna Lisa Lukes, and Commissioner Mark Schaff. Commissioner Manuel Hernandez joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to open nominations to elect a new Chair. Chair Bieber nominated Chair Lukes. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Caskey.

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ ABSENT.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to open nomination to elect a new Vice Chair. Commissioner Schaff nominated Commissioner Bieber. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Lukes.

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ ABSENT.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

2. MINUTES

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2021, REGULAR MEETING, BY M/COMMISSIONER LUKES, S/COMMISSIONER BIEBER.

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ ABSENT.

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3. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jerry Stock, of Hartzog and Crabill, Inc. gave an educational presentation of traffic engineering principles to the Traffic Commission.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMIT PARKING CONTROL IN THE RIDGEFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD

Associate Engineer Amber Shah reported, in 2015, residents requested implementation of parking controls in the "Ridgefield Neighborhood" along the streets of Sierra Bonita Drive, La Cienega Street, Los Cerros Drive and Rio Grande. The residents were concerned with controlling overflow parking from other areas of the community. Based upon the resident's concerns, and in accordance with the Laguna Hills Municipal Code (LHMC), staff sent two parking control surveys to the residents of the Ridgefield Neighborhood to gauge their interest in parking controls. No consensus on parking controls receiving support from a two-thirds (67%) majority of the neighborhood (the threshold of support required by the LHMC). Subsequently, a resident of the Ridgefield Neighborhood contacted staff in August 2018 with a request to revisit the implementation of permit-based parking controls which would otherwise prohibit general overnight parking in their neighborhood. Staff provided a petition form, as permitted by the LHMC, for the resident to circulate by any resident of residential property abutting the proposed Residential Permit Parking Area. Last year, the resident submitted signed petitions indicating support of a minimum of 67% of the residents for a permit parking program. However, Traffic Commission meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the matter was deferred. Now that meetings have resumed, Staff recommends the Traffic Commission review this matter and recommend to the City Council the establishment of a no overnight permit parking program, including no parking during street sweeping hours, in the Ridgefield Neighborhood along the streets of Sierra Bonita Drive, La Cienega Street and Los Cerros Drive.

Patricia Thee, a resident, spoke in favor of permit parking in the Ridgefield neighborhood.

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECOMMENDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM AND NO PARKING DURING STREET SWEEPING HOURS IN THE RIDGEFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD ALONG THE STREETS OF SIERRA BONITA DRIVE, LA CIENEGA STREET AND LOS CERROS DRIVE, AND INSTRUCTED STAFF TO NOTIFY THE RESIDENTS ON RIO GRANDE OF THE PENDING CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. BY, M/COMMISSIONER LUKES, S/COMMISSIONER SCHAFF.

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APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0, COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ PRESENT.

4.2 NELLIE GAIL RANCH EQUESTRIAN CROSSING REVIEW UPDATE

Staff met with the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) in the fall of 2020 to evaluate equestrian crossings in the Nellie Gail Ranch community. The Committee requested an evaluation of the equestrian crossing at the Equestrian Center driveway at the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association Equestrian Center on Nellie Gail Road southerly of Oso Parkway and expressed concerns about traffic controls at nearby intersections. Based upon the Committee's concerns and in accordance with the Residential Streets Management Policy, staff initiated a review of the Nellie Gail Equestrian Center driveway/equestrian crossing and three intersections along Nellie Gail Road at Empty Saddle Drive, Hidden Trail Road and Rocking Horse Lane. The Traffic Engineers of Hartzog & Crabill, Inc., (HCI) were retained and completed a traffic control and operational review of the Nellie Gail Equestrian Center driveway/equestrian crossing and analyses of three additional intersections. The report was presented at the January 2021 meeting of the Traffic Commission. The Traffic Commission continued the matter for further data collection. Ms. Shah indicated this update will be followed by a final report with recommendations at the May 2021 meeting of the Traffic Commission.

In response to the public comments received and Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Committee's request, staff is currently evaluating implementation of speed humps in the vicinity of the Equestrian Center Crossing in accordance with the Residential Streets Management Policy which requires the following minimum criteria are met:

- a) At least 67% of the affected residents of the street and adjacent area streets support the implementation of the physical device. The streets to be used to evaluate the support for the physical device will be those that reasonably can be inferred to draw traffic to the street of concern.
- b) The prevailing speed of traffic has been documented to be greater than 34 mph for at least two radar speed surveys taken 90 days apart as part of the follow-up evaluation of all other traffic controls used to address the issue.
- c) At least 1,500 vehicles traverse the street in a 24-hour period.
- d) The location meets the approval of the Police and Fire Department related to adequate response time of safety vehicles.
- e) The grade of the street shall not exceed 6%.

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- f) The street must have a length of at least 1,300 feet and be able to accommodate a minimum of three speed humps unless otherwise directed by the City Council.
- g) Other issues related to traffic engineering will be considered as deemed appropriate by the City Traffic Engineer.

Criteria c and f have been determined to have been met. Data collection is currently underway for the evaluation of the street grade (criteria e) and a second radar speed survey (criteria b) is scheduled in April 2021. Should both of these criteria be satisfied, next steps would include a survey of the affected residents (criteria a) and Police and Fire Department approval (criteria d).

The Committee also requested Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) in the median at and in advance of the Equestrian Center Crossing, and at Empty Saddle Drive and Rocking Horse Lane. Two Speed Feedback Signs (SFS) along Nellie Gail Road were also requested by the Committee. These requests are also currently being evaluated and will be addressed in the May 2021 staff report.

Pamela Fraser, of the Nellie Gail Trail and Safety Committee, spoke in favor of additional traffic control.

Paul Buller, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic control.

Jennifer Tullis, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic control.

Allison Smith, a resident, provided a video of an accident involving a pedestrian approximately at Nellie Gail and Empty Saddle and spoke in favor of additional traffic control.

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
BY, M/COMMISSIONER CASKEY, S/COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.**

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Sergeant Scott Steinle introduced himself as the new Administrative Sergeant. Mr. Steinle has worked for the Sheriff's Department for 21 years, and as a Patrol Sergeant in the City for the last three years. Mr. Steinle indicated he looked forward to working with everyone.

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5.2 RADAR SPEED TRAILER

Staff submitted the schedule for the radar trailer.

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
BY M/COMMISSIONER LUKES, S/COMMISSIONER CASKEY.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.**

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner Comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Commissioner Bieber declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Prepared By:

Amber Shah, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer

Approved By:

Chair Anna Lisa Lukes