

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 6:02 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:03 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Colin Belle, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire Department
Lieutenant Patrick Hoey, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Thaddeus Mack, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward

Also Present

Mr. Maurice West, 311 S. 2nd St 61104
Ms. Maria Mendia, 3534 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mrs. Tina Kelly, 3542 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mr. Matt Kelly, 3542 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mrs. Kirsten Wilsey, 1254 N. Greenview Ave, 61101
Mrs. Katy Gregg, 3536 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mr. Danny Lorden, 222 N. Main St 61101
Mr. Michael Paulson, 3504 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mrs. Diane Paulson, 3504 Normandy Ave, 61103
Alderman Thomas McNamara, 3rd Ward
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department
Mr. Pablo Solares, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on January 8, 2014 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 11th Ward, from Kathleen Wahl, 1315 Parmele, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on the west side of Parmele Street from 410 feet north of Broadway Street to 440 feet north of Broadway Street. (Commission discussed that the requestor wants a place for para-transit. Commission wanted sign stating “No Parking Anytime Except Para-transit”. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Anytime” on the

west side of Parmele Street from 410 feet north of Broadway Street to 440 feet north of Broadway Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

2. Request in the 7th Ward, from Melissa Lamb, 517 North Willard Avenue, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on the east side of Willard Avenue from 170 feet north of School Street to 200 feet north of School Street. (Commission discussed that the requestor had complained that she could not get her mail due to neighbors parking in front of her mailbox. Commission discussed that no one except requestor responded to survey. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Anytime” on the east side of Willard Avenue from 170 feet north of School Street to 200 feet north of School Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 13th Ward, from St. Mary’s Oratory, 517 Elm Street, to establish a handicap parking space on the north side of Elm Street from 70 feet east of Winnebago Street to 90 feet east of Winnebago Street, thus repealing the existing 2 hour parking. (Commission discussed that church made request due to amount of elderly and handicap parishioners at their weekday services. Commission recommended establishing handicap parking space on the north side of Elm Street from 70 feet east of Winnebago Street to 90 feet east of Winnebago Street, thus repealing the existing 2 hour parking. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0)
4. Request in the 7th Ward, Rockford Public School District 205, to establish a 35 mph speed limit on Auburn Street from North Springfield Avenue to South Pierpont Avenue, thus modifying the existing speed limit ordinance of a 45 mph speed limit on Auburn Street from North Meridian Road to South Pierpont Avenue. (Commission discussed that signs and ordinances are conflicting. Commission discussed that 35 mph was more appropriate speed limit in area. Commission recommended establishing a 35 mph speed limit on Auburn Street from North Springfield Avenue to South Pierpont Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
5. Request in the 7th Ward, Rockford Public School District 205, to repeal a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Auburn Street, 630 feet west of North Pierpont Avenue. (Mrs. Wilsey discussed her concern about pedestrian and students walking along Auburn Street. Commission discussed that the walkway was established in the 90’s because there was a tech school and Auburn H.S. Commission discussed that the high school supports the removal of mid-block pedestrian crosswalk. Commission recommended repealing the mid-block crosswalk on Auburn Street, 630 feet west of North Pierpont Avenue. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 9-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of South 2nd Street and Grove Street, thus repealing the existing Grove Street stopping for South 2nd Street. (Commission discussion both 2nd Street and Grove Street and 2nd Street and Oak Street. Ald. McNamara discussed his and neighborhood concerns about traffic on 2nd Street. Mr. West and Mr. Lorden also supported installation of four way stops. Discussion of a fatality that occurred in 2013 near the intersections. Commission discussed that the intersections did not warrant all way stops due significantly more traffic on 2nd Street. Commission discussed that the stops signs would not slow traffic down. Commission discussed possible pedestrian signage and traffic calming including possible traffic circles. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 9-0).
2. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of South 2nd Street and Oak Street, thus repealing the existing Oak Street stopping for South 2nd Street. (Commission recommended No Action. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 9-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 12th Ward, from Mrs. Katie Gregg, 3536 Normandy Avenue, 61103, to repeal the “No Parking Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.” parking restriction on the west side of Normandy Avenue from Belmont Boulevard to River Bluff Boulevard, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Mrs. Gregg discussed that she did not feel safe crossing the road due to speeding cars and wanted parking restored on west side of roadway. Ms. Mendia and Mr. and Mrs. Kelly also discussed their support for restoring parking on west side of roadway. Mrs. Paulson discussed that she wanted restriction to stay in place due to concerns of not getting mail. J. Carter discussed that this ordinance was created in July 2009 based on complaints about mail not being delivered. J. Carter discussed that at the time the majority of surveys did not want the “No Parking” ordinance but commission approved based on concerns about mail delivery. Commission wanted staff to talk to postal service about grouping mailboxes together to allow for parking and limiting parking restrictions. Commission laid item over so staff could coordinate with US Post Office.)
2. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on one side of Kings Highway. (*Laid Over from January Traffic Commission Meeting*)(Alderman McNamara asked that the item be laid over until May so the neighborhood group, could gather a consensus on which side of street to remove parking. Commission laid over item until May at alderman’s request.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

March 12, 2014 6:00 PM.

Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary