

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, January 8, 2013, 6:00 PM

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

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Colin Belle, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire Department
Sargent Mark Jacobi, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Todd Cagnoni, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward

Also Present

Mr. Mark Coupar, 110 Oak Knolls Avenue S 61108
Mrs. Wendy Coupar, 110 Oak Knolls Avenue S 61108
Mr. Connor Coupar, 110 Oak Knolls Avenue S 61108
Mr. Ken Turner, 56 Senate Drive, 61108
Alderman Thomas McNamara, 3rd Ward
Alderman Jeanne Oddo, 8th Ward
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward
Ms. Kelly Nokes, Public Works Department
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 13, 2013 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 6th Ward, from Ken Turner, Victory Homes Association President, to remove "No Parking Any Time" restriction on Congress Drive and Senate Drive, thus establishing unrestricted parking. (Laid Over from November 2013 Traffic Commission Meeting). (Commission discussed that the item was laid over so fire department could evaluate the fire truck access with parking on one side. T. Morris discussed concerns about possible restriction near where Congress Drive and Senate Drive meet. Commission discussed removing the restriction and evaluating if a

restriction occurs. Commission recommended removal of “No Parking Any Time” restriction on Congress Drive and Senate Drive, thus establishing unrestricted parking. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 8-1)

2. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamera, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Camp Avenue and Hancock Street, thus repealing the existing Camp Avenue yielding for Hancock Street. (Laid Over from November 2013 Traffic Commission Meeting). (Commission discussed that item was laid over so new traffic counts could be performed. Alderman McNamara discussed that area was a walkable neighborhood and that temporary stop signs in the area had worked. He also stated that many of the neighborhood members have requested this from him. Commission discussed that the all way stop is currently up but would revert to Camp Avenue yielding for Hancock Street. Commission recommended establishing all-way stop control at the intersection of Camp Avenue and Hancock Street. Motion by T. Cagnoni, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-2)
3. Request in the 1st Ward, from Brookview School, to remove “Passenger Loading Zone” restriction on west side of Madron Road from 400 feet north of Arbutus Road to 510 feet north of Arbutus Road, thus establishing unrestricted parking. (G. Wilson discussed that Brookview School had constructed near drive for school bus and the loading zone could be removed to allow more parental parking. Commission recommended removal of “Passenger Loading Zone” restriction on west side of Madron Road from 400 feet north of Arbutus Road to 510 feet north of Arbutus Road. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)
4. Request in the 1st Ward, from Alderman Timothy Durkee, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on the west side of Woodmar Road. (Commission discussed that parking surveys were returned with majority of responses asking for no parking on west side of the road. Commission discussed that no parking on east side seems to make more sense because it would keep mail boxes from being blocked, but if neighborhood supported the west side then that is what should be approved. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Anytime” on the west side of Woodmar Road from Brynwwod Drive to Boxwood Drive. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)
5. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Mr. Jarrod Hennis, to establish residential permit parking on the north side of Market Street from North 1st Street to North 2nd Street. (Commission discussed that requestor lived and worked near East State Street and North 1st Street. Commission discussed that area would still have 2 hr parking and be open to public, but residential permits supersedes the timed parking restrictions, so a permit holder can park all day. Commission recommended establishing residential permit parking on the north side of Market Street from North 1st Street to North 2nd Street. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

6. Request in the 8th Ward, from Alderman Jeanne Oddo, to establish stop control of Constance Drive stopping for Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the existing Constance Drive yielding for Wisconsin Road. (Commission discussed that Constance Drive currently yields for Wisconsin Road. Commission discussed that there have been two accidents in the last two years and one resulted in an injury. Commission recommended establishing stop control of Constance Drive stopping for Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the existing Constance Drive yielding for Wisconsin Road. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by T. Cagnoni. Voted 9-0)
7. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Ms. Jennifer Keller, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on the east side of North Court Street from 200 feet south of Napoleon Street to 220 feet south of Napoleon Street. (Commission discussed that Ms. Keller was blind and was looking to create a place for para-transit to pick her up. Commission discussed whether to install “No Parking Anytime” or “Handicap Parking”. Commission wanted sign stating “No Parking Anytime Except Para-transit”. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Anytime” on the west side of Court Street from 270 feet south of Napoleon Street to 290 feet south of Napoleon Street. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 9-0)
8. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Market Street and North Madison Street, thus repealing the existing Market Street stopping for North Madison Street. (Alderman McNamara discussed issues with vision triangle at the intersection especially for eastbound traffic on Market Street. Commission discussed that all way stop would have large impact on traffic. Commission discussed that traffic splits were too much for all way stop to be appropriate. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Anyime” on the east side of Madison Street from Market Street to 75 feet south of Market Street. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 9-0)
9. Street Light Requests
 - a. Request in the 13th Ward, from Alderman Linda McNeely, for additional street lighting at the end of the cul-de-sacs of Trenton Avenue, Hartford Avenue, Cambridge Avenue, and Newport Avenue. (Item was sent back from Codes and Regulation Committee) (Alderman McNeely discussed that in her opinion the item should not have been gone to Traffic Commission due to her programing the item with ward funds. Alderman also explained that the she wanted decorative lights for both street lighting and also esthetic reasons. D. Ward discussed that traffic commission should not deny item that was programmed by aldermen. J. Carter discussed that street lighting items come before the traffic commission after Engineering and Police review the request and find that it does not meet warrants or will more than likely not reduce crime. Commission discussed that if decorative lights were installed that closest cobra head lights should be removed. Commission approved installing decorative at the end of the cul-de-sacs of Trenton Avenue, Hartford Avenue, Cambridge Avenue, and Newport Avenue and removing existing lights. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by T. Cagnoni. Voted 9-0)

- b. Request in the 10th Ward, from Ms. Wendy Coupar, 110 Oak Knolls South, for additional street lighting on the north side of East State Street between Palm Avenue and Oak Knolls Avenue. (Item was sent back from Codes and Regulation Committee) (J. Carter discussed that some street lighting requests were sent back to Traffic Commission because the City Council had felt the requestors had not had a chance to discuss the item. Mrs. Coupar discussed various issues related to crime on her block. She also discussed previous light on State Street providing view of State Street and the sense of security it brought because she could see what people were doing. Ms. Nokes discussed that there were lights on State Street at Oak Knolls Avenue and Palm Avenue and per the City's Street Lighting Policy did not meet the policy to be reinstalled. J. Carter discussed that street lighting items come before the traffic commission after Engineering and Police review the request and find that it does not meet warrants or will more than likely not reduce crime. G. Wilson questioned criteria that Traffic Commission should use to make determination. Commission discussed that there was not clear criteria. Commission approved reinstalling a street light on the north side of State Street at the power pole between Oak Knolls Avenue and Palm Avenue. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 8-1)

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

1. Request in the 8th Ward, from Ms. Kelly Denk, 2327 East Gate Parkway, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of East Gate Parkway and 25th Street, thus repealing the existing 25th Street yielding for East Gate Parkway. (Alderman Oddo discussed safety concerns of the resident near the intersection and that there was bus stop at the intersection. She also discussed speed concerns and cars not stopping for existing stop signs. Commission discussed that intersection had low volumes of traffic and low history of accidents. Alderman and Commission discussed possible ways to make intersection safer that included possibly moving bus stop. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0).
2. Request in the 2nd Ward, from Ms. Alison Valiulis, 731 Lundvall Avenue, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Hickory Lawn Drive and Lundvall Avenue. (Commission discussed low traffic volumes and low accident history. Commission discussed that sight lines appeared to be adequate. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 9-0).
3. Street Light Requests
 - a. Request in the 8th Ward, from Ms. Kari D. Humphrey, 1410 Widergren Drive, for additional street lighting at the 1400 block of Widergren Drive. (Alderman Oddo discussed that she had discussed the item was not needed based on discussion with City Staff. J. Carter discussed that like previous street lighting items come before the traffic commission after Engineering and Police review the request and find that it does not meet warrants or will more than likely not reduce crime.

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamera, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on one side of Kings Highway. (Alderman McNamara asked that the item be laid over so he could discuss the neighborhood group, to gather a consensus on which side of street to remove parking. Commission laid over item at alderman’s request.)

Other items:

1. The commission discussed that Mr. Mark Marinaro had retired from the Rockford Fire Department since the previous traffic commission meeting. The commission thanked Mr. Marinaro for his service on the commission and wish him luck in his future endeavors. Traffic Commission welcomed Mr. Tim Morris of the Rockford Fire Department to the Traffic Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

February 12, 2014 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary