

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:02 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman  
Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Mr. Mark Marinaro, Rockford Fire Department  
Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Todd Cagnoni, Community Development Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Leland Carlson  
Alderman John Beck, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District

**Also Present**

Mr. Lee Bacilek, 2321 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue 61104  
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Mr. Michael Hren, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Ms. Kelly Nokes, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 9, 2013 were approved as submitted.

**The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:**

1. Request in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, from Alderman Teena Newburg, to establish “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the south side of Jonathan Avenue from Rockton Avenue to 293 feet east of Rockton Avenue. (Laid Over from October Traffic Commission Meeting) (Alderman Newburg discussed that she and residents near the area had concerns about turning off Rockton Avenue and onto Jonathan Avenue due to cars parking on south side of road. Commission questioned the length of the restriction and effect on parking for residences on south side of road. Commission discussed that all properties on south side of road had off-street parking. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the south side of Jonathan Avenue from Rockton Avenue to 293 feet east of Rockton Avenue. Motion by T. Cagnoni, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 6-2)

2. Request in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, from Karen Girardy, 1888 Wedgewood Way, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Shelford Lane, Sandringham Lane, and Gale Lane. (Commission discussed that Gale Lane and Shelford Lane was a “T” intersection and according to state law a car on Gale Lane would need to yield to traffic on Shelford / Sandringham Lane. Commission recommended establishing traffic control of Gale Lane yielding for Shelford Lane / Sandringham Lane. Motion by T. Cagnoni, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 8-0)
  
3. Request in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, from Pastor Michael Thomas, on behalf of Katie’s Cup, to reestablish 2 Hour Parking on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 75’ south of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus repealing the existing 15 minute parking restriction. (Commission discussed that Katie’s Cup had previously requested 15 minute parking for customers but had evaluated the parking and was requesting to return it to the previous 2 hour parking restriction. Commission recommended establishing 2 Hour Parking on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 75’ south of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus repealing the existing 15 minute parking restriction. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 8-0)

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

1. Request in the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, from Alderman Jeanne Oddo, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on the north side Wesleyan Avenue from 25<sup>th</sup> Street to 180 feet east of 26<sup>th</sup> Street. (Commission discussed that Alderman Oddo had made the request based on a residents concern about sports practices letting out and the possibility of children running in between cars onto Wesleyan, which is well traveled. Commission discussed possible speeding issues on Wesleyan in the area. Commission discussed that parking on the north side was better for the park because people going to the park did not have to cross the street and parking on both sided could act to calm traffic. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 8-0).
  
2. Request in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, 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. (Commission discussed the low volume of traffic at the intersection and that counts were done back in January 2013, as it gave a more normal traffic count due to being done before traffic temporarily changed due to the roundabout construction at Main Street and Auburn Street. Commission discussed that counts were not done during school release hours. J. Carter discussed that normally Camp Avenue yields for Hancock Avenue and that temporary all way stop was placed at the intersection during roundabout construction at the request of the Alderman. Commission discussed that there was low history of accidents and that there were stops at many intersections around this one, including Hancock Avenue and Harlem Avenue, Hancock Blvd and Auburn Street, and Camp Avenue and Sherman Street. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 8-0).
  
3. Request in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, from Lee Bacilek, 2321 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 61104, to establish stop control of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue stopping for 19<sup>th</sup> Street thus repealing the existing 19<sup>th</sup> Street stopping for 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (Mr. Bacilek discussed his concerns about traffic on 12<sup>th</sup>

Street, and he believed that the road was a cut through for vehicles. J. Carter discussed that with 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street just recently receiving a stop sign, that 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue now has three stops in three blocks. He further discussed that the traffic at the intersection is evenly split so flipping the direction of the stops signs could be allowed. Commission discussed the low volume of traffic during the counts and low history of accidents. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 6-2).

4. Request in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, from Mrs. Patricia Hooker, 920 Garfield Avenue to establish “No Parking Any Time” within the cul-de-sac on Garfield Avenue. (Commission discussed that Mrs. Hooker had complained about people parking in the cul-de-sac and that she had concerns about emergency response due to the parking. Commission discussed if it was more appropriate to have fire lane or no parking. M. Marinaro discussed that the Fire Department would sign the area as “No Parking Fire Lane” Commission recommended No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 8-0).

#### 5. Street Light Requests

- a. Request in the 13<sup>th</sup> 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. (J. Carter discussed that this was first time the new street lighting policy had been used in the traffic commission. J. Carter and K. Nokes discussed that both requests had been before Public Works /Engineering and the Police Department and neither engineering nor PD had found a reason to install additional lights. D. Ward questioned the lighting on Trenton Avenue; he expressed concerns that the light was not very bright and could cause accidents with parked vehicles. Commission asked that Trenton be looked at to improve existing lighting but not add additional. Commission recommended No Action on Hartford Avenue, Cambridge Avenue, and Newport Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 8-0).
- b. Request in the 10<sup>th</sup> 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. (K. Nokes discussed that the request came because Ms. Coupar felt that State Street was not well lit and wanted to see people out on State Street. Commission questioned the amount of pedestrian traffic in this area at night. K. Nokes stated that the Alderman of the Ward was comfortable with the lighting as it exists. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 8-0).

**The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:**

1. Request in the 6<sup>th</sup> 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. (Commission discussed that Victory Homes had originally made the request for “No Parking Any Time” and now was asking for it to be removed. M. Marinaro requested to evaluate fire truck access prior to removal of parking restriction. Commission laid over item so Fire Department could evaluate fire access.)
2. Request in 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the east side of East Lawn Drive from Creekview Road to Manhattan Drive, excluding the reserved space at 4824 Eastlawn Drive. (Alderman Chiarelli discussed that this was a request from the neighborhood group in the area. He discussed that had concerns about vehicles having to cross the road and northbound traffic coming around the curve and feel the parking is dangerous. Commission discussed possibility of moving the parking from the east to the west side of the road. Alderman Chiarelli discussed that he did not believe that would address the issues in the area. Alderman Chiarelli requested to go back to the neighborhood group to discuss possible options of limiting times for the parking. Commission laid over item so Alderman could discuss other options with the neighborhood group.)

**Other items:**

1. The commission discussed that this was Mr. Gary McIntyre’s final Traffic Commission meeting. The commission thanked Gary for his many years of service on the commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. McIntyre.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**January 8, 2014 6:00 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Carter  
Recording Secretary