

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, June 8, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:03 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman

Mr. Thomas Okite

Mr. Ron Carey, Transportation, School District 205

Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department

Mr. Mark Marinaro, Rockford Fire Department

Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department

Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman

Mr. Dock Ward

Mr. Leland Carlson

Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward

Also Present

Mr. Michael Hallgren, 2108 South 5th Street, 61104

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on May 11, 2011, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from Mr. Michael Hallgren, 2108 South 5th Street, 61104 in the 11th Ward to repeal existing 22nd Avenue yielding for 5th Street and replace with all way stop control at the intersection of 22nd Avenue and 5th Street. (Mr. Hallgren discussed recent accident and that he believes there has been a lot of close calls and there is a blind corner. Commission discusses traffic volumes and that there is a higher volume on 22nd Avenue which currently yields for 5th Street. Discussion that the intersection does not meet warrants for all-way stop but there appears to be a site issue and there have been two (2) accidents this year. Commission discussed need to have City Code Enforcement look into house on northeast corner to bring vegetation into City code compliance. Commission discussed having 5th Street Stop for 22nd Avenue and the need for advance warning signs including stop ahead and cross traffic does not stop signage. Commission recommended establishing stop control of 5th Street stopping for 22nd Avenue thus repealing the existing traffic control of 22nd Avenue yielding for 5th Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 8-0)

2. Request from City Staff to prohibit commercial vehicles in the 7th and 9th Wards on Custer Avenue from Main Street to Kilburn Avenue. (J. Carter discussed that staff is currently designing intersection improvements at Rockton Avenue and Custer Avenue, and prohibiting commercial vehicle will allow for smaller right-of-way takes. Commission discussed that there is no industrial or commercial business on this section of Custer Avenue. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by T. Okite. Voted 8-0)

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

1. Request from Mr. Henry Lee, 701 Trenton Avenue, 61102, in the 13th Ward for Yield or Stop sign control at the intersection of Trenton Avenue and Hudson Street. (Commission discussed the intersection had low traffic volumes and no accidents. Commission also discussed that two (2) of the four (4) legs of the intersection were cul-de-sacs. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by R. Muzzarelli, seconded by M. Marinaro. Voted 8-0).
2. Request from Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward that a “No Parking Any Time” restriction be established on the north side of Belmont Boulevard from Main Street to 60 feet west of Main Street. (Commission discussed that No Parking Any Time (NPAT) Sign on north side of Belmont Boulevard did not match location per City Code of Ordinance. Commission discussed request was to allow a car turning off Main Street to queue if there was a eastbound car and two cars parked across from each other. Commission discussed that NPAT sign on south side was in proper place and moving north side sign to location per ordinance would address concerns. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 8-0).
3. Request from Alderman Bill Timm, 9th Ward and Wesley Willows Retirement Community to establish an all way stop at the intersection of Rockton Avenue and Embury Drive. (J. Carter discussed the layout of Wesley Willows and the need for a safe crossing for people walking between the east and west campuses. J. Carter also discussed that the amount of pedestrians appears to be relatively small but with the hills to the north and south and high speeds on Rockton Avenue elderly pedestrians crossing the street was a concern. Commission discussed that there was large difference between traffic volumes on Rockton Avenue and Embury Drive and due to this warrants would not be met. Commission discussed people not stopping for pedestrians and possible alternates for crossing, including Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFB) and Pedestrian HAWK systems. Commission discussed that RFB do not guarantee vehicles stopping, and that an unwarranted stop sign could give pedestrian a false sense of confidence for crossing. Commission discussed they would prefer to see RFB or a midblock crossing with a HAWK signal. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by R. Muzzarelli, seconded by M. Marinaro. Voted 8-0).

The Traffic Commission elected the officers for the 2011 – 2012 Rockford Traffic Commission and nominated the following:

1. Chairman Nominee – George Zawislak
(Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. McIntyre. Vote 9-0).
2. Vice Chairman Nominee – Tom Okite
(Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by J. Carter. Vote 9-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by M. Marinaro.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary