

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mr. Thomas Okite at 6:01 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman (Arrived 6:05)
Mr. Thomas Okite, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Jeffrey Cowles, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Wayne Dust, Planning Division, Community Development Department (Arrived 6:05)
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Leland Carlson (awaiting reappointment)
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Also Present

Mr. Wade Hendrickson, 615 South 4th Street, 61104

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on July 13, 2011, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request from Mrs. Joan Szuminski, 3408 Shirley Rd., 61108, 10th Ward, that a “No Parking Any Time” restriction be established on both sides of Fairview Avenue from Oak Grove Avenue to Michael Drive. Thus establishing No Parking Any Time from State Street to Michael Drive. (J. Carter discussed that item had been laid over to assemble accident data at subject intersections. J. Carter stated he had been to the intersection many times and had not seen the cars parked at the corners at Shirley Road. T. Okite questioned whether the parking restrictions would eliminate types of accidents at the intersection. Commission discussed establishing corner clearance around intersection of Fairview Ave. and Shirley Rd. Commission recommended having Traffic Engineer establish corner clearance on all four corner of lengths he believes proper at the intersection of Shirley Road and Fairview Avenue only. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 10-0).

2. Request from Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward, for Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing on Fulton Avenue approximately 158' east of Cumberland Street. (J. Carter discussed that the park on the north side of Fulton Avenue is an ADA accessible park and Ald. Beck had placed ADA ramps at a mid-block location. J. Carter stated that while the intersections at Cumberland and Oxford were both all-way stops there was no sidewalk from the corners to the playground. Commission discussed the ADA parking in the area of the park and asking Park District to install sidewalk. Commission discussed laying item over and asking staff to engage Park District about sidewalks. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0).

The Traffic Commission recommended laying over the following items:

1. Request from Wade Hendrickson, 615 South 4th Street, 61104, 11th Ward, that a parking restriction be established on the west side of 4th Street from 5th Avenue to 6th Avenue. (Mr. Hendrickson addressed the commission discussed that he had made attempts to contact the Chicago International Charter School (CICS). He then discussed that school has added traffic to the neighborhood and parents park in front of his house along 4th Street during drop off and pick up and have blocked driveways. Mr. Hendrickson stated he was asking for the same parking restriction as on Fairview Avenue. J. Carter discussed the surveys that were sent came back even with leave as is and establishing school hour parking restriction. He also discussed that he had made a visit to the school during pick up and drop off and had not seen the large amount of vehicles as pictured in Mr. Hendrickson's pictures. He also discussed that the restriction on Fairview Ave was on a minor arterial and 4th Street was a local street and that this issue occurs at many schools throughout the city. G. Wilson discussed how bus drop off and pick up is handled. G. Wilson discussed that he had asked CICS to be at the meeting and was concerned about CICS's future plans. Mr. Hendrickson questioned why 11 surveys had gone out when there were only 5 houses on his block. J. Carter stated the surveys had been sent to the block south to get their opinion in case of school expansion. Commission discussed parking on 6th Avenue. G. Wilson suggested that commission layover item and he and J. Carter meet with CICS to discuss future parking requirements. Commission laid over item in order to hear about CICS future plans and parking needs. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0).

Other items:

J. Carter presented warrants for mid-block crossing. He stated that Traffic Commission has previously not had warranted and this made evaluating the need for a mid-block crossing difficult. Commission discussed that warrants were a starting point of evaluation Traffic Commission could decide based on sound traffic judgment decisions and each case needed to be evaluated on its own merit. No action was required or taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Zawislak.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary