

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:01 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman

Mr. Fred Lierman

Mr. Dock Ward

Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205

Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Lieutenant Christine Bishop, Rockford Police Department

Mr. Jeffrey Cowles, Rockford Fire Department

Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department

Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Leland Carlson

Mr. Thomas Okite

Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward

Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Also Present

Mr. Bill Pratt, 4141 N. Rockton Ave, 61103

Ms. Deb Adkins, 4141 N. Rockton Ave, 61103

Ms. April Franks, 120 N. Madison St, 61103

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 9, 2011, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from April Franks, owner of Bliss Beauty Lounge, 120 North Madison Street, 61103, 3rd Ward to repeal the existing two hour parking, and replace with three hour parking on the west side of Madison Street, from 185 feet South of Market Street to 85 feet South of Market Street. (Ms. Franks spoke that she is requesting this change because some of her customers need longer than 2 hours if they are having multiple things done. J. Carter explained this was very similar to a parking change approved on 1st Street for another beauty salon. F. Lierman stated he works near the area and did not believe this would cause a problem with parking. Commission recommends approval of the request. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by C. Bishop. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request from Alderman Bill Timm, and Wesley Willows, 9th Ward to discuss the intersection of Rockton Avenue and Embury Drive. (J. Carter explained that this was a discussion of the pedestrian and vehicle issues at the intersection of Embury Drive and Rockton Avenue. J. Carter discussed that he and Ald. Bill Timm had met with Wesley Willows and suggest a few possible solutions for pedestrians at the intersection. Mr. Pratt discussed that he has seen a lot of growth at Wesley Willows during his 12 years and Wesley Willow plans to continue to grow. Mr. Pratt expressed his concern that his residents are aging and their senses and reaction speed are slowing. Mr. Pratt discussed that Embury Drive is a major entrance into both sides of the campus and that speed on Rockton can make entering the roadway from Embury Drive unsafe. J. Carter discussed the topography of the roadway, signage, visibility and the speed study that was done. The speed study showed an 85% speed of 36mph. J. Carter discussed that Rapid Flashing Beacons could be installed. Traffic Commission questioned whether this is a pedestrian or vehicle issue. Traffic Commission discussed that the only thing that will protect vehicles pulling out onto Rockton and pedestrians crossing Rockton would be a traffic signal because it would only turn green when needed on the side street. J. Carter stated that a signal is not warranted at the intersection. Mr. Pratt discussed that Wesley Willows could help fund a traffic signal. Traffic Commission discussed that in the meantime, Wesley Willows could look to install radar signs or signs with LEDs attached. J. Carter stated he would send Wesley Willow information on different signs and would start the conversation with Ald. Bill Timm and city staff about the possibility of a traffic signal. Since there was no specific request, no action was taken. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by C. Bishop Voted 9-0)
2. Request from Ms. Jessica Beghtel, 1416 5th Avenue, 61104, 2nd Ward to repeal the existing traffic control of 10th Street stopping for 5th Avenue, and replace with all-way stop sign control at the intersection 10th Street and 5th Avenue. (G. Zawislak stated he was surprised by the amount of angle accidents at the intersection. Commission discussed that they believe that the counts may have been turned 90 degrees. Commission discussed that the accidents may have occurred while Kishwaukee was under construction. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0).

3. Request from Mrs. Helen Greco, 3104 North View, 61108, 14th Ward to remove the existing traffic sign “No stopping turn right on to Bradley Road” and replace with all way stop at the intersection of Bradley Road and Landstrom Road. (F. Lierman discussed the history of the sign and that had been plans to reconfigure the intersection. Commission discussed that this intersection had been looked at multiple times by the Traffic Commission and that there is no history of accidents at the intersection and it appears to function fine. Traffic Commission discussed that the sign had been removed in the past, but was asked by residents to be put back up. J. Carter stated he believes the sign is confusing and he would like to see a three way stop at the intersection. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by C. Bishop. Voted 8-1).

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM. Motion by J. Katz, seconded by D. Ward.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
February 8, 2012 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary