

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mr. Doc Ward at 6:02 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Dock Ward, Vice Chairman
Mr. Don Bissell
Mr. Todd Fagen
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Michael Smith
Alderman Tuffy Quinonez, 11th Ward
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Sgt. Ben Boeke, Rockford Police Department
Inv. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Dunn Jr, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Also Present

Ms. Eryn Stone, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 9, 2017 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 6th Ward, from Todd Reuber, Northern Illinois Food Bank, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on Research Parkway from Kishwaukee Street to 1280 feet east of Kishwaukee Street. (Commission discussed this request came from the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) with the approval of the other businesses in the area, due to amount of cars that park in the area when NIFB distributes food. Per NIFB, the cars cause traffic issues with other vehicles including trucks. T. Fagen questioned if this restriction was too long and would affect possible surrounding properties. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the south side of Research Parkway from Kishwaukee Street to 1280 feet east of Kishwaukee Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by V. McLean, Voted 10-1)

2. Request in the 8th Ward, from Gary Meyer, 2223 24th Street, to establish 25 mph Park Speed Limit, on 25th Street from Wesleyan Avenue to 20th Avenue. (J. Carter discussed this issue is from an original request for stop signs and a concern about young pedestrians at the park. T. Fagen suggest extending the speed limit the length of 25th Street. Commission is not doing one-off speed limits on residential streets due to an expectation of consistency by drivers. Commission recommended establishing a 25mph Park Speed Limit, on 25th Street from Wesleyan Avenue to 20th Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by V. McLean, Voted 10-1)
3. Request in the 11th Ward, from Laurie Swift, 1423 4th Street, to establish stop control at the intersection of 4th Street and 16th Avenue. (Commission discussed the intersection having many accidents. Commission recommend to establish traffic control of 4th Street stopping for 16th Avenue. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by M. Smith, Voted 11-0)
4. Request in the 11th Ward, from City Staff, to establish “Angle Parking” on the west side of 20th Street from 710 feet north of Harrison Avenue to 760 feet north of Harrison Avenue. (J. Carter discussed this parking has been occurring and a new tenant is moving into location and wants to resurface the parking area. J. Carter discussed there is no ordinance behind the parking and this is essentially “book keeping”. Commission recommended establishing “Angle Parking” on the west side of 20th Street from 710 feet north of Harrison Avenue to 760 feet north of Harrison Avenue. Motion by D. Bissell, seconded by J. Carter, Voted 11-0)
5. Request in the 11th Ward, from Alderman Tuffy Quinonez, to repeal the existing “Commercial Loading Zone” on the north side of Broadway from Arbor Court to 50 feet west of Arbor Court. (Alderman Quinonez discussed that this restriction was no longer needed as the business that requested it had moved and the area could use the extra parking. Commission recommended repealing the existing “Commercial Loading Zone” on the north side of Broadway from Arbor Court to 50 feet west of Arbor Court. Motion by D. Bissell, seconded by M. Smith, Voted 11-0)
6. Request in the 11th Ward, from Ana Lopez, Los Pinos Auto Sales, to establish a “No Parking Anytime” parking restriction on the west side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 150 feet south of Broadway. (J. Carter discussed that the requested had concerns that people could not see their car inventory due to parking on the west side of Arbor Court. Commission discussed parking is needed for local businesses and lose of parking would hurt businesses. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Anytime” parking restriction on the west side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 150 feet south of Broadway. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Morris, Voted 11-0)

7. Request in the 11th Ward, from Ana Lopez, Los Pinos Auto Sales, to repeal the “No Parking Anytime” parking restriction on the east side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 150 feet south of Broadway. (J. Carter discussed that the requested had concerns that people could not see their car inventory due to parking on the west side of Arbor Court. Commission discussed parking is needed for local businesses and lose of parking would hurt businesses. Commission recommended repealing the “No Parking Anytime” parking restriction on the east side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 150 feet south of Broadway Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Morris, Voted 11-0)
8. Request by Michael Dunn, Executive Director of Region 1 Planning Council, to revise City Code of Ordinances to remove the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning as a member of the Rockford Traffic Commission. (J. Carter discussed that RMAP was transitioning to a Regional Planning Council and they do not feel many of the local traffic related decision required their input. RMAP has stated they would be more than happy to be present and give input when discussion topics of a regional nature. Commission discussed many of our requests are on local roads and do not have a regional effect. Commission recommended removing the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning as a member of the Rockford Traffic Commission. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by F. Lierman, Voted 11-0)

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

1. Request in the 2nd Ward, from Anna Grobe, to establish a No Parking Any Time restriction on one side of 18th Street from Broadway to 15th Avenue. (Commission discussed road was narrow but it is not more narrow than surrounding neighborhood street. T. Morris discussed that the Fire Department did not have concerns about a truck getting down the street. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by T. Morris, Voted 11-0)
2. Request in the 2nd Ward, from Anna Grobe, to establish a No Parking Any Time restriction on one side of 19th Street from Broadway to 15th Avenue. (Commission discussed road was narrow but it is not more narrow than surrounding neighborhood street. T. Morris discussed that the Fire Department did not have concerns about a truck getting down the street. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by T. Morris, Voted 11-0)
3. Request in the 7th Ward, from Dan Zeller, 818 Irving Avenue, to establish a 4-way stop control at the intersection of Irving Avenue and Sherman Avenue, thus repealing the 2-Way stop control at the intersection of Irving Avenue and Sherman Avenue. (Commission discussed the intersection appears to have no sight line issues, low traffic volumes and low history of accidents. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 11-0)

4. Request in the 8th and 10th Wards, from Lynn Heffran, 2007 23rd Street, to establish stop control at the intersection of 23rd Street and 19th Avenue, thus repealing the yield control at the intersection of 23rd Street and 19th Avenue. (Commission discussed the intersection already had yield control for the minor legs of the intersection. Commission discussed low history of accidents. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by T. Fagen. Voted 11-0)
5. Request in the 9th Ward, from Tim McCammond, 1903 Carney Avenue, to establish 4-way stop control at the intersection of Carney Avenue and Burton Street. (Commission discussed the intersection appears to have no sight line issues, low traffic volumes and low history of accidents. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by Sgt. Boeke. Voted 11-0)
6. Request in the 10th Ward, from Courtney Lewis, 421 Fairview Avenue, to repeal the existing “No Parking from 7:30am to 4pm” on the west side of Fairview Avenue from Harney Court to Wind Point Road. (Commission discussed that this restriction was enacted per the request of the School District to help control pick-up/drop-off of students at the early learning school. Members discussed how difficult and unsafe travel was along the road prior to the parking restriction. M. Slife discussed RPS 205 still wants the restriction. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by M. Slife. Voted 11-0)

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 10th Ward, from Autumn Fredericks, Unitarian Universalist Church, to establish a 20mph School Speed Limit on Turner Street from Ridgeview Avenue to Flintridge Drive. (Commission discussed that a school had temporary relocated to the church and this speed limit would only be in place while the school was there. Commission discussed this was a cut through area for cars trying to avoid traffic signal at Alpine Road. J. Carter stated the requestor want to notify people there was a school in the area to put people on guard. Commission discussed wanting to understand speed along the street. Commission laid item so speed trailer can be deployed.)

The Traffic Commission elected the officers for the remaining 2017 – 2018 Rockford Traffic Commission and nominated the following:

1. Chairman Nominee – F. Lierman
(Motion by D. Ward, seconded by S. Capovilla. Vote 11-0).
2. Vice Chairman Nominee – Doc Ward
(Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Morris. Vote 11-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

November 8, 2017 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy A. Carter, P.E.
Recording Secretary