

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, October 11, 2019, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Bissell at 6:01 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. Don Bissell, Chairman  
Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman  
Sgt. David Nicosia, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department  
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Cedrick Ketton, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department  
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Todd Fagen  
Mr. Michael Smith  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Also Present**

Mr. Kyle Saunders, Public Works Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 11, 2019 were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 7th Ward, by Loree Leathers, Principle of Haskell Elementary School, to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Loading Zone” on regular school days from 7:00am to 3:00pm on the north side of Maple Street from 126 feet west of N Winnebago Street to N Rockton Avenue. (K. Lin noted that the number of buses has increased and that there are signs in front of the school building but they do not appear to have been installed by the City. M. Slife explained that parents parking in this area block the bus access. The Commission recommended establishing the parking restriction as requested. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Nicosia, Voted 7-0).
2. Request in the 5th Ward, by Becky Lichty, President of the ORCHiD Neighborhood Association, to establish a 20mph School Speed Limit on Gregory Street from Kishwaukee Street to the north leg of S 3rd Street. (See discussion below. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 7-0).

3. Request in the 5th Ward, by Becky Lichty, President of the ORCHiD Neighborhood Association, to establish a 20mph School Speed Limit on South 3rd Street from Gregory Street to College Avenue. (K. Lin pointed out that there are existing school speed limit signs on Kishwaukee Street. M. Slife clarified the location of the new school building and the use of the property to the north of Catlin Street. He also pointed out that Catlin Street is now used for bus access but is not a through street. The Commission recommended establishing school speed limits on both Gregory Street and South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street as requested. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 7-0).
  
4. Request in the 7th Ward, Tyler Smith of Galapagos School, to establish a 20mph School Speed Limit on School Street from N Johnston Avenue to N Day Avenue. (K. Lin commented that there are existing school speed limit signs on Day Avenue. Commission recommended establishing the school speed limit as requested. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 7-0).
  
5. Request in the 13th Ward, by Isaiah Davis, 620 Alliance Avenue, to establish traffic control at the intersection of W Jefferson Street and N Independence Avenue. (F. Lierman commented that a 4-way stop would not be effective at this location due to the low traffic volumes. K. Lin discussed the accident history and commented that a yield may be an appropriate step. After discussion regarding which street should yield, the Commission recommended that W. Jefferson Street yield for N. Independence Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 7-0).

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

1. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Tina Thornrose, 214 S Prospect Street, to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of S Prospect Street from 2nd Avenue to Charles Street thus repealing the “No Parking Here to Corner” on S Prospect Avenue from 2nd Avenue to 36 feet to the south. (Commission noted that Prospect Street does narrow considerably south of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It was also pointed out that the adjacent properties are generally multi-family units and that while there is alley access, parking is limited. The survey responses were all opposed to the parking restriction. M. Rotolo commented that it is challenging for fire trucks to get through and that the parking restriction would improve their access. D. Nicosia agreed that police access would be improved by the restriction. M. Slife stated that RPS buses do not use this segment of Prospect Street. C. Ketton asked about the possibility of making the restriction time dependent as a large portion of the traffic on the street is generated by the school. K. Lin pointed out that there is history of parked vehicle accidents in this area and that traffic turning north off Charles Street is sometimes blocked by southbound vehicles. A restriction on the approach to the Charles Street intersection could be considered. The Commission laid this item over so that additional input can be obtained. Motion by C. Ketton, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by D. Nicosia.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**November 13, 2019 6:00 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry R. Lin, P.E.  
Recording Secretary