

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Bissell at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Don Bissell, Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dock Ward
Ms. Dorien Peterson
Mr. Todd Fagen
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

Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14th Ward

Also Present

Ms. Pam Miner, Principal, Whitehead Elementary School
Ms. Deb Fisher, 922 N. Lyford Road, 61107
Mr. Ed Hornbeck, 1607 Kilburn Avenue, 61101
Mrs. Laurie Page, 4845 Crofton Drive, 61114
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on January 8, 2020 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 8th Ward, by Pam Miner, Principal of Whitehead Elementary School, to establish handicapped parking on the west side of Ohio Parkway from 310 feet south of Dartmouth Drive to 370 feet south of Dartmouth Drive, thus repealing the existing 2-hour parking restriction from 7AM to 3PM on the west side of Ohio Parkway from 310 feet south of Dartmouth Drive to 370 feet south of Dartmouth Drive. (Pam Miner, Principal of Whitehead School, presented the request. She explained that currently handicap parking is located in a small lot north of the school and that this location is not convenient to Door A where visitors are required to check in. Many parents and grandparents have contacted her asking for closer parking. K. Lin pointed out that there had previously been handicap parking in the same area as is requested, and J. Carter commented that the distance being requested could accommodate three vehicles. Commission recommended establishing handicapped parking on the west side of Ohio Parkway from 310 feet south of Dartmouth Drive to 370 feet south of Dartmouth Drive,

thus repealing the existing 2-hour parking restriction from 7AM to 3PM on the west side of Ohio Parkway from 310 feet south of Dartmouth Drive to 370 feet south of Dartmouth Drive. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 10-0).

2. Request in the 1st Ward, by City Staff, to establish a 45mph Speed Limit on N Lyford Road from Rote Road to E State Street. (Deb Fisher presented concerns of the adjacent property owners concerning the speeds on N Lyford Road as well as a description of the land uses and demographics of the neighborhood. Many residents as well as many customers at the other uses are older drivers. C. Ketton commented that RMTD drivers have problems exiting the facility. K. Lin discussed the IDOT Policy on Establishing and Posting Speed Limits as well as the speed study that was performed. The results of that indicated that a 45 mph speed limit should be established due to a violation rate in excess of 50% for a 40 mph limit. J. Carter pointed out that, while the technical standpoint is that the speed should be set at 45 mph, human factors are important as well. Commission recommended establishing a 40 mph Speed Limit on N Lyford Road from E State Street to the City Limits, north of Royal Oaks Drive. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by C. Ketton, Voted 7-3).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 7th Ward, by Ed Hornbeck, 1607 Kilburn Avenue, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of Kilburn Avenue from Parkside Avenue to Wallin Avenue, thus repealing the existing “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of Kilburn Avenue from 160 feet south of Parkside Avenue to 240 feet south of Parkside Avenue. (Ed Hornbeck presented his request and described the difficulty that drivers leaving his property have when cars are parked in the area near his building. The request was made to restrict parking from Parkside Avenue to Wallin Avenue, but the Commission expressed concern over removing too much parking. It was then suggested that the northern limit be moved south to a distance to be suggested by City Staff at the next meeting. City Staff will work with the requestor to determine this recommended location. The southern limit will also be reviewed, but the Commission generally felt that this limit was appropriate. Commission laid over the item. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Nicosia, Voted 10-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by D. Peterson.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

March 11, 2020 6:00 PM.

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

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