

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Colin Belle, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Lieutenant Patrick Hoey, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire Department
Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward

Also Present

Ms. Maria Mendia, 3534 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mrs. Katy Gregg, 3536 Normandy Ave, 61103
Mr. Esteban Avita, 1705 S Trainer Road, 61108
Mrs. Zofia Muszunski, 1681 S Trainer Road, 61108
Mr. Constantine Bortes, 1681 S Trainer Road, 61108
Ms. Scharnae Black-Walker, 2429 River Oaks Lane #5, 61102
Ms. Altomease Carter, 2429 River Oaks Lane #4, 61102
Mr. Starker White, 2433 River Oaks Lane #1, 61102
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on April 16, 2014 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 12th Ward, from Mrs. Katie Gregg, 3536 Normandy Avenue, 61103, to repeal the “No Parking Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.” parking restriction on the west side of Normandy Avenue from Belmont Boulevard to River Bluff Boulevard, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (*Laid Over from April Traffic Commission Meeting*) (J. Carter stated that he had discussed the issue with the Ald. Beck and that he was in favor of removing the restriction. Commission discussed that the post office could not consolidate mail box to allow for smaller restriction area and that the survey had come back overwhelming in favor of removing the restriction. Mrs. Gregg and Ms. Mendia again spoke to the commission and stated the hardships of parking across the street. Commission recommended repealing the “No

Parking Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.” parking restriction on the west side of Normandy Avenue from Belmont Boulevard to River Bluff Boulevard, thus restoring unrestricted parking. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-0)

2. Request in the 8th Ward, from Mr. Russel Doty, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of West Gate Parkway and Colorado Avenue, thus repealing the existing West Gate Parkway stopping for Colorado Avenue. (*Laid Over from April Traffic Commission Meeting*) (J. Carter stated at the request of the traffic commission, staff had recounted the intersection during drop off and pick up times at the nearby school. Commission discussed that volumes on the legs were generally even during drop off and pickup and the east leg of the intersection was the school entrance and exit. Commission recommended establishing an all-way stop control at the intersection of West Gate Parkway and Colorado Avenue, thus repealing the existing West Gate Parkway stopping for Colorado Avenue. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 7-0)
3. Request in the 5th Ward, from Ms. Tina Eisler, 5511 N Mulford Road, 61107, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the west side of River Oaks Lane from Arboretum Drive to 450’ North of Arboretum Drive. (Ms. Black-Walker, Ms. Carter, and Mr. White, all spoke in favor of the parking restriction, noting difficulty getting through road when there are cars parked on both sides of the road. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the west side of River Oaks Lane from Arboretum Drive to 450’ North of Arboretum Drive. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 7-0)
4. Request in the 13th Ward, by City staff, to establish stop control of Mulberry Street stopping for Avon Street, thus repealing the existing all-way stop at Avon Street and Mulberry Street. (J. Carter discussed how the intersection is now a “T” intersection since the West State Street Project and how much of the traffic has been diverted to State Street. Commission recommended establishing stop control of Mulberry Street stopping for Avon Street, thus repealing the existing all-way stop at Avon Street and Mulberry Street. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0)
5. Request in the 13th Ward, by City staff, to establish stop control of Elm Street stopping for Avon Street, thus repealing the existing all-way stop at Elm Street and Avon Street. (J. Carter discussed how traffic patterns have changed and prior to the building of Ellis School and the Justice Center, Elm Street had been major roadway. Commission discussed that traffic was no longer even among the legs of the intersection and Avon was now the dominant roadway. Commission recommended establishing stop control of Elm Street stopping for Avon Street, thus repealing the existing all-way stop at Elm Street and Avon Street. establishing stop control of Mulberry Street stopping for Avon Street, thus repealing the existing all-way stop at Avon Street and Mulberry Street. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0)
6. Request in the 13th Ward, from Alderman McNeely, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction in the cul-de-sacs of Trenton Avenue, Hartford Avenue, Cambridge Avenue, and Newport Avenue. (*Laid Over from April Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Ald. McNeely stated she wanted the four cul-de-sacs in this area to be consistent in how parking was handled in them. Commission discussed approving the same parking restriction on Cambridge Avenue the prior month. Commission also discussed the small size of the cul-de-sac. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction in the cul-de-sacs of Trenton Avenue, Hartford Avenue, Cambridge Avenue, and Newport Avenue. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 8-0)

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

1. Request in the 14th Ward, from Mr. Marvin Young, 1663 Trainer Road, 61111, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the west side of Trainer Road from Highridge Road to Windcloud Drive. (Mr. Bortes and Mr. Avita both spoke against the parking restriction on their block. Commission discusses that the street was wide enough to have parking on both sides and get an emergency vehicle through. Commission also discussed that the majority of those returning surveys were against the restriction. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamera, to establish “No Parking Anytime” on one side of Kings Highway. (*Laid Over from February Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Alderman McNamara asked that the item be laid over until June so the neighborhood group, could gather a consensus on which side of street to remove parking. Commission laid over item until June at alderman’s request.)
2. Request in the 5th Ward, from Alderman Hervey, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the west side of Christina Street from 18th Avenue to Blackhawk Park Avenue. (G. Wilson express concerns about school district bus drivers not being able to park along the road. Commission questioned drivering using adjacent parking. G. Wilson stated many of the spaces are used and that drivers leave during middle of the day when they are not driving and this was why spaces may look open during the day. G. Wilson also discussed issues with crime and the walk to parking. Commission laid the item over so School District and Ald. Hervey could discuss possible resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. Carlson.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

June 11, 2014 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary