

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 6:00 PM

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

Members Present

Mr. Don Bissell, Chairman
Ms. Dorien Peterson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Tom Okite
Mr. Todd Fagen
Alderman Bill Rose, 9th Ward
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Ron Priddy, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Dock Ward
Sgt. Jason DoBran, Rockford Police Department

Also Present

Alderman Frank Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Nerino J. Petro, Jr., Erickson & Associates, Inc.
Mr. Caleb Wilson, Urban Equity Properties, LLC
Mr. Jeff Orduno, Urban Equity Properties, LLC

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on June 9, 2021, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 11th Ward, by Amanda Sink, 2243 S 5th Street, to establish traffic control at the intersection of S 4th Street and 22nd Avenue. (This item had been laid over from the June meeting as construction at that time prevented city staff from obtaining a traffic count. K. Lin pointed out there have been two accidents in the study period and the adjacent intersections have traffic control. T. Okite commented that the requestor expressed concern for a resident who frequently uses the crosswalk at the intersection. Commission recommended establishing 2-way stop control of S. 4th Street stopping for 22nd Avenue. Motion by T. Okite, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 9-0).
2. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Haskell Park Apartments, 327 N Church Street, to establish Residential Parking on the south side of Park Avenue from N Church Street east to the alley. (This and the following two items were discussed together. These items had been laid over from the June meeting so that discussion between city staff and Urban Equities

could take place. Following this discussion, the requests were revised as detailed herein. Mr. Caleb Wilson and Mr. Jeff Orduno explained their requests. Several concerns were expressed about parking availability for those who were not residents of Haskell Park Apartments. K. Lin pointed out that in general terms the parking spots used by residents would be open during typical working hours. Commission recommended establishing Residential Parking on the south side of Park Avenue from N Church Street east to the alley, on both sides of N Church Street from Park Avenue to W Jefferson Street, and on both sides of Park Avenue from N Court Street to N Church Street. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 9-0).

3. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Haskell Park Apartments, 327 N Church Street, to establish Residential Parking on both sides of N Church Street from Park Avenue to W Jefferson Street. (See above).
4. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Haskell Park Apartments, 327 N Church Street, to establish Residential Parking on both sides of Park Avenue from N Court Street to N Church Street. (See above).
5. Request in the 3rd Ward, by City Staff, to establish “3 Hour Parking” on the south side of Park Avenue from N Court Street to 90 feet east of N Court Street, thus repealing a portion of the existing parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the south side of Park Avenue from N Court Street to 150 feet east of N Court Street. (K. Lin explained that this came to staff’s attention while reviewing the requests for residential parking in the area. It appears that the no parking restriction was due to a previous use at this location. Survey responses supported the request. Commission recommended establishing “3 Hour Parking” on the south side of Park Avenue from N Court Street to 90 feet east of N Court Street, thus repealing a portion of the existing parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the south side of Park Avenue from N Court Street to 150 feet east of N Court Street. Motion by T. Okite, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 9-0).
6. Request in the 14th Ward, by City Staff, to establish 2-way stop control at the intersection of David Drive at Charlotte Drive. (K. Lin explained that stop signs exist on David Drive at this location but there is no ordinance for these signs. Commission recommended establishing 2-way stop control of David Drive stopping for Charlotte Drive. Motion by M. Slife, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 9-0).
7. Request in the 10th Ward, by Swedish American Health Services, to establish Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing on Hunter Avenue, approximately 380 feet north of Charles Street. (Alderman Beach presented the request and Mr. Nerino Petro explained that Swedish American employees park in the Schnucks parking lot and cross at this location. K. Lin explained the request exceeds the 300’ from a controlled intersection criteria for mid-block crossings. Proper signage will be installed at and in advance of the crossing. ADA ramps will also be constructed. Commission recommended establishing a Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing on Hunter Avenue, approximately 380 feet north of Charles Street. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 9-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following item:

1. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish traffic control on Rural Street at Parkview Avenue and Welty Avenue. (K. Lin read a letter from Alderman Logemann who was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of his letter and attached emails from residents were made available. Several options for stop sign control were discussed and were detailed in the workbook. Alderman Logemann supports Option 1 which is a three-way stop at the Parkview Avenue intersection. K. Lin pointed out that this option would require traffic turning left from Welty Avenue to stop again at the Parkview Avenue intersection. It was also noted that sight issues impact the Parkview Avenue intersection to a higher degree and there is a higher accident history at this intersection. In addition, T. Okite called attention to the crosswalk at this intersection. A question was asked about the impact to the Welty Avenue intersection of the stacking of vehicles at the Parkview intersection. S. Capovilla suggested consideration of a right-in / right-out (“porkchop”) island at Welty Avenue. He also commented that the Welty Avenue corridor should be evaluated to see what could be done to improve conditions at this location as well as the intersection with E. State Street. R. Priddy commented that RMTD routes would not be impacted by an island on Welty Avenue. Commission recommended that this item be laid over so that the impact to the Welty intersection of the queue caused by Option 1 can be evaluated. In addition, exhibits showing the “porkchop” island and other traffic calming alternatives that are being considered were requested. The Commission also recommended that Options 2 (three-way stop at Welty Avenue), 4 (signs on east leg at Parkview Avenue, west leg at Welty Avenue), and 5 (three-way stop at both intersections) be removed from future discussion. Motion by D. Bissell, seconded by T. Fagen, Voted 9-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. Motion by D. Peterson, seconded by T. Fagen.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

August 11, 2021 6:00 PM.

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

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