

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2013 5:30 pm., in the Birch Room City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{c}, Kellbach, Keene, Mielke, Nutting
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Wesolowski, Alfonso, Schildt, Jeanette Goetsch, Sandra Ramsey, Deb Ryan, Louis Cordova

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abitz at 5:30 pm.

(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting(s) – (06/20/13)

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Motion approved 4-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action to create signed parking spaces for a passenger loading and unloading zone on the West side of the 600 block of S 7th Avenue, beginning at a point of 38' from the intersection of Garfield Avenue and extending 61' to the South.

The UW Marathon Center, Louis Cordova has requested the creation of signed spaces along the west side of S 7th Avenue, in front of the UW-MC field house entrance, to facilitate passenger loading and unloading. The area would encompass 3 standard sized parking spaces and would be signed for passenger loading/unloading zone only.

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to create signed 15 minute parking spaces for a passenger loading and unloading zone on the West side of the 600 block of S 7th Avenue, beginning at a point 38' from the intersection of Garfield Avenue and extending 61' to the south. Motion approved 4-0.

(3) Discussion and possible action to add 2 stop signs, one for eastbound and one for westbound Callon Street at S 4th Avenue and adding "Stop Ahead" advanced warning signs where appropriate.

The intersection of Callon Street and S 4th Avenue is currently a 2-way stop, (S 4th Avenue only) and it has a significant view obstruction on the southwest corner. This creates a dangerous situation as the view to the West is very limited when pulling out from the stop sign. Residents are requesting additional stop signs, to make this a 4-way stop intersection. Pekarske further explained that the intersection not only has view limitations, but is also off set as an intersection which causes more of safety concern.

(Winters enters @ 5:40 p.m.)

Concerns were expressed on for stopping and starting on the hill if the intersection was changed to a 4-way. A request to flag the signs for the first few months of the change to raise awareness of the change in the intersection.

Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting to add 2 stop sign, one for eastbound and one for westbound Callon Street at S 4th Avenue, flagging the signs for the first few months of placement, and to place "stop ahead" advanced warning signs where appropriate. Motion approved 5-0.

(4) Discussion and possible action to restrict parking in the 100 block of E Union Avenue, beginning at a point 4' to the West of the driveway for 116 E Union Avenue and continuing East to the intersection of E Union Avenue and Cherry Street.

Jeanette Goetsch, resident at 116 E Union Avenue is requesting the change, due to the number of vehicles parking in this area and the difficulty it causes getting in and out of their driveway. Pekarske explained that parking patrol has not noticed any issues in the area. He felt there was no need to post it as a no parking area. Nutting suggested they post the area as a 2 hour parking to help alleviate the problems.

Motion by Nutting, second by Mielke to restrict parking on the North side of the 100 block of E Union Avenue between Cherry Street and N 1st Avenue as 2 hour parking only, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. Motion approved 5-0.

(5) Discussion and possible action to prohibit vehicle parking, stopping or standing at the Courthouse triangle at the intersection of N 6th Street, Forest Street and Grand Avenue, posting authorized vehicle only.

Alfonso explained that Chief Hardel had concerns with folks posting objects and walking in this public right of way. He is requesting this be posted as emergency or authorized vehicles only. Discussion on the situation as it pertains to not being a park, and that it is actually part of the roadway. Concerns regarding not allowing individuals to place exhibits for the memorial and Labor Day holidays were discussed. It was determined this is a two committee issue, Parking and Traffic for the road going thru this area, and Public Health and Safety for the continuance of allowing exhibits to be posted on special holidays. Pekarske explained that vehicles tend to use the access road and a turnaround from heading North on Grand Avenue to go South on Grand Avenue. This is a safety issue. The committee determined they would make a determination on the roadway today and ask that the Public Health and Safety Committee review the second part of the issue with posting exhibits and its safety issues.

While the committee made a motion afterward Nutting wanted the item held for the second Common Council meeting of October. Alfonso explained this was not possible, if a motion is made has to go to Council. Nutting said he wanted it held for Public Health and Safety, Winters agreed. After much discussion it was determined they would take their portion thru the next Common Council meeting and have Public Health and Safety address their second part.

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach, to post "Emergency or Authorized Vehicles Only" on the Courthouse triangle access road. Motion approved 4-0.

(6) Discussion and possible action creating a left turn signal for northbound N 1st Street traffic at Scott Street.

Wesolowski informed the committee that this intersection is currently under study and that the Engineering Department would have a complete report back by December. It was discussed how this issue has been brought forward to Parking and Traffic before and they have been told that from the guidelines followed the light is set appropriately. Nutting stated this was not acceptable, that something needs to be done and done now. He said he was tired of everything having to have a study and they should not have to wait for studies to be done to determine changes. He wants it changed now. Wesolowski explained that they need to study the intersection for a traffic count, and turn movements before they can make any suggestions. Abitz said she sees people turning left onto Scott Street and they do not stay in their lane. Nutting stated the same occurs on the southbound lane turning from 1st Avenue onto Scott Street and felt something needed to be done about this. Pekarske explained that these are driving habits, not a signal change fix. The stripping is in place and drivers will turn and not always stay in the lane they should be, but signing it differently will not stop this from occurring. Abitz requested the stripping be checked on the intersection.

At this time the committee will not take any action on this item, as they decided it would be best to wait for a complete study from the Engineering Department.

Abitz exits meeting 6:30 p.m., Keene Winters takes over as Chair

(7) Discussion and possible action to lengthen the time for the green traffic signal for northbound traffic on S 1st Avenue at Stewart Avenue.

Nutting explained the lights in this area are too short, he wants the time changed for vehicles to cross the intersection longer. He said the light needs to be set for a pause in between the change from green to yellow to red to allow vehicles that have started into the intersection to cross. Wesolowski read Brad Marquardt's review of the intersection aloud to the committee, "I watched the intersection and saw no indication of problems in this area. To add less green time to Stewart Avenue would then cause issues at the S 3rd Avenue and Stewart intersection. I do not recommend a change." Wesolowski then spoke to the committee to explain how the system is timed for Stewart Avenue and S 1st Avenue and why it is as it is. He then went on to say that in 2015 the DOT will be doing a complete construction on Stewart Avenue that will have changes in the timing of the lights. Nutting wanted to know why we need to do more studies here. Stating something needs to be done, the timing needs to be changed now, not in two years. He wanted to know why it is going to take two years for the change in the road. Wesolowski tried to further explain that this is a state road and they have it set for a 2015 budget, that with his review and Brad's they both feel this is not warranted.

Winters asked for a motion asking Nutting what time frame he wants it changed to, and stated then the committee will make a motion, Nutting stated he wants it 15 seconds on S 1st Avenue, Winters asked who makes a motion for 15 seconds,

Mielke motioned to change the time on S 1st Avenue heading north to 15 seconds and change Stewart Avenue accordingly, Nutting seconded. Alfonso then explained that changing this intersection would cause a problem on the S 3rd Avenue and Stewart intersection. Winters said we already voted, it's already done. Alfonso was explaining that they needed to bring this back to the committee, Nutting said a change needs to be done now, a vote was done. Alfonso explained how this will affect the S 3rd Avenue and Stewart intersection, and a vote cannot be done on that intersection because it is not on the agenda. Discussion continued when the committee realized they need to bring the item back to have a vote on both intersections.

Motion by Mielke to rescind the vote until both items could be brought together to the committee, second by Kellbach. Motion approved 3-1.

Motion by Mielke, to table this item and bring it back next month, to include the S 3rd Avenue and Stewart Avenue intersection, second by Kellbach. Motion approved 3-1.

(8) Discussion and possible action to add pedestrian crossing signals to the S1st Avenue and Stewart Avenue and S. 3rd Avenue and Stewart Avenue intersections.

Wesolowski stated that as previously discussed, the State Department of Transportation will be reconstructing these intersections in 2015. Along with that it will include pedestrian crossing. Nutting stated it needed to be done now, he wants a wire with hanging crossing signs put in place until the reconstruction. Wesolowski stated there are many safety concerns that would occur if they were to do this, it is too dangerous to have something like that in place. Nutting wants something done now, he wants a cost study to search on a fix for now. He does not want to have to wait for two years to have a change done.

No further discussion or action taken on this item.

(9) Discussion only – update on the status of S 1st Avenue and the roadway repairs. Presented by the Engineering Department

Wesolowski stated the road repairs are complete. The final touch up is currently being done. He also indicated that funding was applied for to have the road completely redone. He will be meeting with 3M on Friday and will see if the repairs are helping them.

(10) Discussion only – review a draft proposal to update our parking ordinances to include trailers

Alfonso asked the committee to review all the information given to them, indicating that trailers were not part of the ordinance currently, and that the ordinance needed updating. Pekarske asked the committee to review the information given within the next month, and the item will be on next's month agenda for discussion and action.

(11) Future Agenda Items:

- S 1st Avenue /Stewart and S 3rd Avenue/Stewart
- 5th Street North of Union – one way street change and add pedestrian path (Wesolowski)
- Map of parking restrictions in the downtown area (Wesolowski)
- Parking ordinance to include trailers.

(12) Next Scheduled Meeting: October 17, 2013

Adjourn

Motion by Kellbach, second by Nutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Parking and Traffic Committee
Sherry Abitz, Chair