

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2014, 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz {C}, Kellbach, Nutting, Winters, Mielke
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Friday, John Huber, Lori Heyne, Dan Maas, Phil Valitchka, Deb Ryan

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 5:15 pm.

(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 4/17/2014

Motion by Winters, second by Kellbach, to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2014 meeting. Motion approved 4-0.

(2) Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Parking and Traffic Committee

Motion by Winters, second by Kellbach, to nominate Abitz for Chair. Discussion if Abitz would like to remain Chair. She confirmed she would. Keene moved to close nominations and elect Abitz. Motion approved 4-0. Motion by Abitz, second by Kellbach, to nominate Winters as Vice Chair. Discussion if Winters would like to remain Vice Chair. He confirmed he would. Abitz moved to close nominations and elect Winters. Motion approved 4-0.

(3) Discussion and possible action: To designate the 100 block of N 2nd Avenue as two-hour parking, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske stated that it was a reasonable short-term solution until the City's parking study is completed.

Abitz noted that she received only one phone call opposing the implementation. No other calls received by committee members.

Resident Dan Maas from the Chatterbox Tavern voiced approval of the proposal.

Resident Deb Ryan from the Westies Neighborhood group noted that neighbors are concerned about the parking situation and are interested to know the results and recommendations of the parking study.

Motion made by Nutting, second by Winters, to designate the 100 block of N 2nd Avenue as two-hour parking, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Motion approved 4-0.

**** Discussion after approval on timeline of implementation****

Abitz stated that implementation would take 3-4 weeks

Lt. Pekarske stated that implementation should occur by the end of June 2014

(4) Discussion and possible action: To allow the Engineering Department authority to create temporary parking restrictions on all roadways adjacent to Grand Avenue throughout the duration of the Grand Avenue reconstruction project.

* Mielke arrived 5:25 pm

Discussion:

Wesolowski stated that the department has posted signs restricting parking on side streets adjacent to Grand Avenue to allow semi-trucks to safely make turns. He has not received any public complaints thus far.

Alfonzo noted that the current ordinance allows for temporary parking restrictions for 90 days per location of the restriction. She recommended that a motion be made to approve this item.

Motion made by Kellbach, second by Mielke, to allow the Engineering Department authority to create temporary parking restrictions on all roadways adjacent to Grand Avenue throughout the duration of the Grand Avenue reconstruction project. Motion approved 5-0.

(5) Discussion and Possible action: To amend W.M.C 10.40.050 to allow bicycles to travel either on the sidewalk or on the roadway on Grand Avenue from the Schofield city limits to the southern boundary line on Forest Street.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske stated that the current ordinance restricts bicycles to sidewalks on Grand Avenue. After completion of construction on Grand Avenue, it is proposed that bicyclists will have the option of either riding on the sidewalk or the road.

Abitz and Nutting received phone calls from residents requesting clarification of this change.

Motion made by Nutting, second by Keene, to amend W.M.C 10.40.050 to allow bicycles to travel either on the sidewalk or on the roadway on Grand Avenue from the Schofield city limits to the southern boundary line on Forest Street. Motion approved 5-0

(6) Discussion item only: Traffic concerns on Lakeview Drive (at Marshall Street), speeding vehicles entering the North Central Health Care facility driveway.

Discussion:

Mielke stated that an administrator at North Central Health Care had contacted him with this concern and a request for a stop sign at the entrance to the facility.

Lt. Pekarske said that the area would need to be a 3-way stop which would require signs to be placed at the entrance and exit of the facility. He also stated that stop signs should not be used as a device to control speed. Previous violators have been primarily employees of North Central Health Care. He recommends that North Central Health Care discuss this issue with their employees.

Alfonzo noted that the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices specifically states that a stop sign should not be used as a speed control device.

Kellbach suggested increased enforcement.

Lt. Pekarske stated that enforcement is effective but that the problem resumes as soon as monitoring and enforcement by officers ceases.

Mielke stated that since the facility is on County property, the City may not be able to do anything.

This item will be brought forward by Abitz to the County Public Safety committee for discussion.

(7) Discussion and possible action: To create a mid-block crosswalk between Eastbay (500 N. 72nd Ave.) and the former Award Hardwood Floors building (401 N. 72nd Ave.)

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske stated that this item was requested by Eastbay since Eastbay has acquired the former Award Hardwood Floors building and is anticipating heavy foot traffic across the street.

Wesolowski said that the crosswalk would need to be handicapped accessible at the curbs and should be directing pedestrians to a paved parking lot not a grass boulevard area in order to ensure handicap accessibility.

Wesolowski will contact Eastbay to discuss placement of the crosswalk and the handicap accessibility concerns.

This issue will be tabled until a future meeting.

(8) Discussion item only: Concerns regarding the crosswalk on Stewart Avenue at N. 2nd Avenue

Discussion:

Abitz noted that this issue was initiated from a call she received from a citizen who was helping a visually impaired person cross this intersection.

Wesolowski stated that it is a difficult intersection at which to cross because there are multiple lanes of traffic.

Nutting mentioned that the committee had previously discussed installing pedestrian crossing signals at the intersections of 1st Avenue and Stewart Avenue as well as 3rd Avenue and Stewart Avenue. It was determined at that time that the existing conduit was too old to install additional wiring. Nutting requested that Wesolowski do a cost analysis study on the issue.

Wesolowski suggested that in addition to the cost analysis the existing crossing area could be re-stripped. Wesolowski will complete a cost analysis for the June meeting.

(9) Future Agenda Items

Item #8, Concerns regarding the crosswalk on Stewart Avenue at N. 2nd Avenue

New item: Installation of additional stop signs at the intersection of Elm St. and 2nd Ave. presented by Deb Ryan, John Huber and Lori Heyne

New item: Concern about motorists not stopping at the intersection of 3rd St. and McIndoe St.

(10) Communication

Lt. Pekarske noted that citations for using hand-held devices while driving will start being issued after Memorial Day. Currently, drivers are being issued warnings.

Wesolowski stated that a speed study is being done on 13th Street and the results will be brought forward to the June meeting.

(11) Adjournment

Adjourn

Motion made by Mielke, second by Kellbach, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. (Winters absent)

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Parking and Traffic Committee
Sherry Abitz, Chair