

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Kellbach (arrived 5:30), Mielke, (Nutting absent)
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Friday, Gary Gisselman, Pat Peckham

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 – 03/19/2015

Motion by Mielke, second by Winters, to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action: To prohibit parking on E. Kent St., from Curling Way east to the termination point of the roadway

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske directed the committee to a memo from Dan Fiorenza of the Marathon County Parks Department which details why the Parks Department is requesting “no parking” along E Kent St. They are concerned about erosion caused by foot traffic on the side slopes, pedestrian safety if walking in roadway on E Kent St. and easier access to unauthorized use if parking is allowed in the roadway. They want to encourage parking in the designated lots only.

Winters questioned whether the roadway was wide enough for parking and Wesolowski indicated that it is not and was not designed for parking. Winters also inquired as to whether there is currently enough parking for large events and Wesolowski stated that there are several lots available as well as some on-street parking on Curling Way.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to prohibit parking on E. Kent St., from Curling Way east to the termination point of the roadway.

Motion carried 3-0

(3) Discussion and possible action: On the proposal for the creation of parking spaces on city property (Community Garden) along the 1500 block of N. 1st Street and the 100 block of Dekalb Street

Discussion:

Wesolowski stated that the committee had previously given direction to have Ann Werth draw up a contract with Trolley Quarter Flats for Trolley Quarter Flats to pay the City a one-time payment of \$2500.00 to help with the cost of paving the parking spaces.

Winters inquired as to when the contract will be ready and Wesolowski stated that he did not think Werth had yet drawn up a contract.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to direct Alfonso to contact Werth and draw up a contract to present to the committee no later than the June 2015 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0

(4) Discussion Item Only: Follow-up communication regarding the intersection of the US-51 northbound off-ramp at W. Bridge St.

Discussion: Lt. Pekarske directed the committee to an email communication between Wesolowski and Tony Kemnitz of the DOT which indicates that the DOT is aware of the issues and concerns regarding this intersection and is investigating options to address this situation. Lt. Pekarske also noted that this is a DOT controlled intersection so it would be their responsibility to make any changes.

Wesolowski stated that per the email he would be receiving a follow-up communication from the DOT but has yet to be contacted. Wesolowski will send a follow-up email to Tony Kemnitz at the DOT.

(5) Discussion Item Only: Downtown parking study presentation – Mary Anne Groat

Discussion:

Abitz stated that this item was removed from the agenda and will be placed on the June agenda

***(9) Addendum item- Discussion item only: Proposed reconstruction at 1st Street and Scott Street**

Discussion:

Abitz stated that Gary Gisselman approached her wondering what the status is of the proposed reconstruction because of his concerns about accidents at this intersection.

Gisselman stated that a serious accident recently occurred at this intersection and reinforced his desire to see changes made. He specifically noted that he believes drivers are speeding on Scott Street. He is wondering what changes the committee can implement.

Lt. Pekarske said he will bring the information on the past year's traffic crashes at this intersection to the next committee meeting for the members to review the crash history data.

Wesolowski reviewed the specifics of the suggestions made to the DOT for reconstruction of this area in 2016 but noted that it is the DOT's decision to accept or reject the suggestions made by CISM.

(6) Future Agenda Items

Updates on Item #3, Item #5 and Item #9 (time permitting)

(7) Communications:

The committee discussed their discomfort with Mary Anne Groat presenting the Downtown parking study to the public before presenting it to the committee. Abitz may contact Mary Anne Groat about rescheduling the public presentations until after the presentation has been made to the committee.

(8) Adjournment:

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

*Item discussed out of order