

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall Members  
Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Kellbach,  
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Officer Graham, Tara Alfonso, Eric Lindman, Gary Gisselman, MaryAnne Groat, Pat Peckham, Linda Turk

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-06/18/15**

Motion by Winters, second by Kellbach to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2015 meeting. Motion carried 3-0. Winters questioned a line on the agenda that says "All items listed may be acted upon". He felt that only 1 item on the agenda for this meeting was listed as "Discussion and possible action". Tara Alfonso offered a response as to why the agendas are prepared in this manner.

**\*(6) Discussion Item Only: Future direction and plans to move forward with the parking study recommendations**

Discussion:

Abitz feels as we spent money on a parking study that we needed to proceed forward with at least some of the recommendations. Winters indicated he felt that the committee needed more direction. Maryanne Groat stated the Ad-Hoc Parking Group, comprised of various city staff members, could be reconvened and would be able to bring information back to the committee in time for the next budget year. Abitz requested that city staff move forward with looking into way-finding signs for the downtown area and also that this item be included on future agendas so the committee can review, discuss, and provide direction for moving forward with implementing the suggestions from the study.

**(2) Discussion and possible action: Review of the traffic flow on the newly widened and repaved portion of Spring Street**

Discussion:

Winters brought up traffic calming methods, such as plow friendly speed bumps. Gary Gisselman, agreed with the Winters and used other countries as examples that used raised intersections that seem to make traffic flow better. Abitz is concerned that these measures will frustrate citizens and they will alter their route to get around town and then create speeding or traffic concerns in new/other neighborhoods. Winters then indicated that if he was a staff member sitting here, he would be confused as to the direction Abitz wanted to take. He indicated that some people certainly do alter their route to avoid stop signs, but added that there are studies as far back as 25 years ago that prove conclusively that traffic calming methods work. Abitz agreed that she didn't want people speeding in a school zone, but felt if you have streets that citizens frequently travel, traffic calming methods would hinder traffic flow. Winters would like to pass something along to CISM committee. Pekarske agreed, and indicated that this committee should set some type of goals and direction, with priorities for certain neighborhoods of the city, or residential streets and school zones. When those streets are redeveloped this committee could send direction to CISM that the use of traffic calming methods should be encouraged. Winters stated that he felt the school zones should be the priority. He does not want another Spring Street. He would like to see roads developed that citizens feel comfortable driving 25 mph on. He feels that is what the citizens want in their neighborhoods and school zones.

Winters attempted to make a motion to ask the CISM Committee to implement traffic calming measures in school zones as soon as possible and that for future road construction, the city incorporate traffic calming measure as soon as we can, hopefully in the next year. In addition, when citizens come forward with a speeding problem, Winters suggested that we offer them a menu of possible solutions to the problem, as they do in Madison. Alfonso stated a motion is not necessary to ask the CISM Committee to put something on their agenda. Winters said he would prefer one to get it on the record. Lindman stated he didn't have any problem getting it on the CISM agenda. It was decided that no motion was needed to move it forward to CISM. Winters noted the following items for consideration by the committee:

1. People driving too fast on neighborhood streets is a common complaint.
2. The 85th Percentile Speed is higher than we would like it to be for residential streets.
3. Widening & straightening streets makes it comfortable for driver to go faster.
4. Stop signs do not work to stop speeding
5. Occasional police surveillance does not stop speeding for long.
6. Pedestrian refuges, traffic circles, speed humps and other "traffic calming measures" can reduce speeding behavior.
7. CISM would have to act to implement traffic calming measures on residential street.

**(3) Discussion Item Only: Proposed reconstruction at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Scott Street**

Discussion:

Lt Pekarske shared the information he gathered on traffic collision data in the last year at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Scott. Of the 8 reported collisions, none appeared to be related to the engineering or design of the intersection. Lindman added that Public Works went out and did some re-striping as well. The intersection is due for an upgrade in 2016.

**(4) Discussion Item Only: Parking concerns and traffic congestion in the 100 block of Maple Street**

Pekarske stated that the Fire Chief went out to look at the situation and did not have any concerns for emergency vehicle traffic that would justify making a change to limit the current on-street parking. All streets in that neighborhood are narrow and if a change is made on this block it may only shift the parking concern to a different block. There was no recent crash history at this location. Abitz thought that the congestion on that block may have improved with the use of the old Pizza Hut lot now being used by the Eastbay employees.

**(5) Discussion Item Only: Traffic Signal concerns and light timing at the Stewart Avenue/S 36<sup>th</sup> Av intersection**

Item was tabled, to be brought back next month.

**\*(10) Discussion Item Only: Traffic volume and speeding concerns on N 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue occurring between Elm Street and Bridge Street.**

Abitz stated there is a concern that drivers were turning onto 4<sup>th</sup> Ave to avoid the intersection at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Bridge St. She is not sure of the time of these occurrences. There are no stop signs on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave for about 5 blocks, between Bridge Street and Elm Street. Kellbach added she has left early for work to look at this and doesn't see a big problem with it. Lindman said he could do a traffic study and provide the results to the committee at a future meeting. This item and the information from the traffic study will be brought back next month.

**(7) Future Agenda Items**

Winters asked that it be put on the next agenda that we discuss dissolving the Parking and Traffic Committee. He pointed out that of the 10 items on our agenda for today; action was only allowed to be taken on 1. After discussion, it was determined that this item should be addressed by the council and Winters indicated he would take it to the council.

**(9) Adjournment**

Motion by Winters, second by Kellbach to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

\* Item discussed out of order