

City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
April 14, 2016
DRAFT

Members Present: Jim Hoekstra, Traffic Engineer
Matt Johnson, City Engineer
Rebekah Kik, City Planner

Members Excused:
Vernon Coakley, Executive Lieutenant
James Baker, Interim Director, Public Services

City Staff: Amy Thomas

Guests: Sonja VanderVeen, Central City Parking

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hoekstra called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Hoekstra completed roll call and determined that the aforementioned members were present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 10, 2016)

No changes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request for a loading zone on Michigan Avenue between the Kalamazoo Mall and Farmers Alley.

- Sonja VanderVeen was present on behalf of Central City Parking to discuss this request from Tom Huff.
- Mr. Huff requested the conversion of a handicap parking space to a loading zone for the duration of the project. The adjacent 90-minute parking space would remain.
- Ms. VanderVeen suggested that the handicap space and the 90-minute parking space both be converted to a loading zone for the duration of the project.

- The handicap space isn't used very often during the week; it is used more often on the weekends. These parking spaces are in Exchange Alley behind the Comerica building. The closest handicap parking is on the mall.
- Central City Parking has no opinion either way with regard to this request. The request has not been reviewed by the Parking Committee.
- Ms. VanderVeen mentioned that Steve Deisler advised that Downtown Kalamazoo, Inc. (DKI) is not opposed to the change.
- Ms. Kik questioned which business depends on that handicap space to be in that location. Ms. Vanderveen stated that the handicap parking space was there primarily for when the PNC Bank was near that location but they are on the opposite side of the street now.
- Mr. Johnson inquired if the handicap spot could be moved to a different location. Mr. Hoekstra mentioned that there is potential for damage to the concrete because the handicap sign would have to be moved. It would be preferable to eliminate the handicap spot temporarily for the summer. Mr. Hoekstra questioned if the handicap space could be moved to the other side of the street since it needs to be near a ramp
- Mr. Johnson suggested the possibility of making the change and waiting to see if there is a response. Ms. Kik suggested determining the length of time for the change to be in existence.
- Ms. VanderVeen suggested tying this to the Farmers Alley project and the other signs regarding the temporary loading zone. This would help provide a rationale for the change.
- Ms. Kik stressed the importance of sticking to a deadline for the loading zone to remain in that location. Mr. Hoekstra advised that a date limit would not be specified on the TCO (Traffic Control Order).
- Mr. Hoekstra expressed concern that people are using that parking space on the weekends. However, since DKI is in agreement with the request, it can be granted since it is being done in conjunction with the construction project.
- Ms. Kik was in agreement with converting the 90-minute parking space and the handicap parking space into a loading zone. If there are objections regarding conversion of the handicap space it can be re-evaluated.
- **Mr. Hoekstra suggested converting both of the parking spaces to a regular loading zone, which would include freight, for the duration of the construction project. There were no objections from the Traffic Board.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

None

8. NEXT MEETING

Traffic Board Minutes

April 14, 2016

Page 3 of 3

The next Traffic Board meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2016. All agenda items for that meeting are due to Mr. Hoekstra by May 5, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Date: _____