

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
April 13, 2017**

Stockbridge Main Conference Room
415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Traffic Board Members Present: Jim Hoekstra, Traffic Engineer
 James Baker, Acting City Engineer
 Rebekah Kik, City Planner/Director of CP&D
 Matt Huber, Public Safety

City Staff: Amy Thomas, Recording Secretary

Guests: Doug Kirk, Herb Ayers, Jon Durham, Leslie Hoffman

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 9, 2017)

There were no changes to the March 9, 2017 Traffic Board minutes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Kalamazoo County Handicapped Parking.**

- **Ms. Kik suggested tabling this agenda item for further discussion with Kalamazoo County representatives to discuss moving handicap parking onto Rose Street and having an additional handicap space with striping and curb painting. Further information is also needed regarding the entrance on the south side of the building. Mr. Hoekstra will report back to the Traffic Board under Old Business.**

b. **Hopcat Parking**

- The request is to clearly sign and install meters allowing parking in front of Hop Cat on E. Michigan. There is currently a no-parking sign in front of the Medical Center but there is no traffic control order for that sign.
- Ms. Hoffman advised there is parking before the railroad tracks by Food Dance. MDOT stated that they would approve two parking spaces in front of the Old Dog Tavern and one in front of Hop Cat.

- MDOT doesn't want parking spaces by the medical center or Hop Cat due to site distance issues. That leaves a total of three they will approve.
- Ms. Hoffman suggested that the TPM would determine if these spaces would be posted or metered. They would probably be short-term, 2-hour meters. There should also be better no-parking signage and a traffic control order. The request was not for the south side of the road.
- Shawn Smith might close the vacated driveway. It might be possible to create two more spaces there. That discussion would be at the DKI (Downtown Kalamazoo, Inc.) level.
- **Ms. Kik moved to authorize the two parking spaces in front of the Old Dog Tavern and one in front of Hop Cat and have Ms. Hoffman proceed with discussion about the possibility of adding more parking spaces. There were no objections from the board.**

c. **Bicycle Ordinance Signage.**

- Doug Kirk, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, was present to request signs at the City limits advising of the new ordinance regarding safe passing distance for cars/bicycles. He estimated that it would take 16 to 18 signs to cover the major entrances to the City.
- Ms. Hoekstra mentioned that adding additional signage in those locations would require communication with MDOT. The City or MDOT would install the signs. The language would be similar to the red and white parking signs. It might be possible to have signs similar to what Portage is using.
- Many ordinances do not get posted as signs. With the amount of signs already on the posts, this would be one more sign to squeeze in and it is uncertain as to whether or not the ordinance will be enforced. Mr. Hoekstra stated that he could not support the request.
- Ms. Kik mentioned that bicycle safety is an issue in our community. It is critical to let people know we care about the safety of bicycles.
- Office Huber commented that the signs might not be permanent but maybe they are a good idea in the interest of safety.
- Mr. Baker mentioned that when state law changes, the signs can be removed. He stated that he supports the installation of the proposed signs at the City limits.
- **The request was approved with three in favor and one opposed.**
- Mr. Hoekstra advised that the Engineering Division will look into having the signs manufactured and installed. City staff will also work with MDOT regarding the right-of-way permits for Westnedge, West Main, King Hwy., etc.
- Mr. Kirk inquired regarding a time frame for the signs to be installed. Mr. Hoekstra estimated that the signs on City streets might be installed in about a month or so, he was not sure how soon they could be installed on MDOT roads.

d. **Fraternity Village Dr. – Request for No Parking Fire Lane Signs.**

- This request was made by Jim Williams from the Public Safety Department. Mr. Baker advised that it can be difficult to get equipment down this road. The area fills up with vehicles. There is no parking near W. Michigan.
- Office Huber stated that on Fridays and Saturdays, it can be difficult to get a fire apparatus down the cul-de-sac because cars are parked on both sides and students walk down the middle of the street. No parking on both sides of the street would be helpful.
- Mr. Baker mentioned that all of the properties on this street have sufficient parking on their lots. Mr. Hoekstra mentioned that visitors and parties increase the problem. The Traffic Board normally accommodates the needs of the Public Safety Department.

- Ms. Kik commented that if there is no parking on both sides of Fraternity Village Dr., that could cause people to park on other nearby streets. She suggested the possibility of having no parking on one side of the street to see if that helps. No parking around the cul-de-sac also makes sense. Mr. Hoekstra mentioned that most cul-de-sacs are signed no parking.
- **Office Huber moved to proceed with a pilot program to include no parking on one side of Fraternity Village Dr. and the entire cul-de-sac. There were no objections from the Traffic Board.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Walbridge Parking.

- Mr. Baker stated that there should be a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the snow removal by the applicants. It would be difficult for the City to access that space to remove snow.
- Ms. Kik will work with the City Attorney to write that up and get it to the applicants for their signature.
- **The no parking signs will be removed on the east side of the street, the back-in angle parking signs will remain. The west side of the street will remain as-is. Ms. Kik did not vote on the application since she lives in the building. The other board members were in favor of this suggestion.**
- Office Huber inquired as to when enforcement can begin. Mr. Hoekstra will draft the Traffic Control Order and forward it to the City Clerk to post at City Hall for two weeks and then it will be forwarded to Public Safety. Mr. Ayers will sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

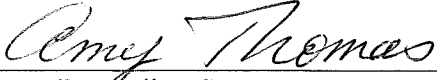
None

8. NEXT MEETING


- a. Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017
- b. Agenda items submitted to Jim Hoekstra (hoekstraj@kalamazoocity.org) by May 4, 2017.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Submitted by: 
Recording Secretary

Date: 4-17-18

Approved by: 
Staff Liaison

Date: 4-20-18