

**City of Kalamazoo  
TRAFFIC BOARD  
Minutes  
August 13, 2015**

415 Stockbridge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Traffic Board Members Present: Jim Hoekstra, Traffic Engineer, Public Services  
James Baker, Deputy Director, Public Services  
Matt Johnson, City Engineer, Public Services  
Rebekah Kik, City Planner, Community Planning & Development

Members Excused: Vernon Coakley, Executive Lieutenant, Public Safety

City Staff: Amy Thomas, Recording Secretary.

**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 (July 9, 2015)**

There were no changes to the minutes.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Mills St. No Parking (Stockbridge to King Hwy.)**

- Mr. Hoekstra advised that removal of on-street parking from King Hwy. to Stockbridge is under consideration. City staff requested community feedback multiple times regarding this issue.
- Ms. Kik stated that the last community meeting was held in February. She is comfortable with the outreach done by city staff. There was a lot of support for this proposal at the public meetings. A nearby church would be losing parking but the neighborhood association worked with them to find shared parking.
- **Mr. Johnson, supported by Ms. Kik, moved approval of the no-parking request on Mills St. from Stockbridge to King Hwy. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Portage Rd. no parking (Pitcher to Reed).**

- Mr. Hoekstra stated that the proposal is to convert this portion of the road from four lanes to three lanes. This was discussed during public meetings at the Washington Square Library on August 4th and at the Edison Neighborhood Night Out event.
- Ms. Kik stated that she spoke with the Edison Business Association and received positive feedback from that group. Some members of that group would be losing parking. Comments at the National Night Out event pertained to the conditions of the street. The street would be repaired.
- Mr. Hoekstra mentioned that community feedback was good at the August 4th meeting. Not many businesses were represented at that meeting, which is why Ms. Kik attended the business association meeting.
- Mr. Johnson commented that city staff presented information about this proposal at multiple community meetings. The community outreach took place for almost a year and included two National Night Out events, a design charrette, and business association meetings.
- **By unanimous voice vote, the Traffic Board voted to approve the application to remove on-street parking along Portage Rd. from Pitcher to Reed.**

### **b. 1201 Hays Park concerns**

- Ms. Rogers and Ms. Sprague were present to discuss this agenda item. Ms. Rogers has concerns with regard to the damage vehicles have caused when they have hit her house.
- The intersection of James and Hays Park is a 2-way stop on Hays Park; James is free-flowing.
- Action was postponed on this agenda item at the last meeting to allow staff time to gather more information.
- Mr. Johnson recommended that the Traffic Board take no action and defer this matter to the Public Services Managing Office and staff to see if other action can be taken due to the City of Kalamazoo's current fiscal budget and other projects in the area. The Traffic Board does not have the authority to make a decision in this matter.
- Mr. Hoekstra referred to Section 36.6 of the City ordinance, the Traffic Board only has the authority to make parking changes or recommend traffic control orders. City staff does not believe a stop/yield would solve the issues at this intersection.
- Ms. Sprague inquired if staff did any monitoring of that intersection. Mr. Johnson stated that staff looked at that intersection on the basis of what was discussed at the Traffic Board meeting. It is possible that this may have been either a geometric issue or a driver error issue.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that there were no intersection site distance issues (no trees to be trimmed, etc.). There is another intersection to the south that has north/south stop signs so it doesn't make sense to make changes at the James/Hays Park intersection.
- Mr. Hoekstra noted that, in order to make the James/Hays Park intersection a 4-way stop, the situation would need to meet warrants specified by the MMUTCD (Michigan Manual of Traffic Control Devices). Staff could look at those warrants and evaluate the intersection for a four-way

stop if desired. There was a discussion about the possibility of putting boulders outside the right-of-way. The City would not install guardrails for house protection.

- Ms. Rogers stated that the gas meter is a concern. She was lucky the last time the house was hit that she and the other occupants were not injured. She is concerned that they might not be that lucky if there is a next time.
- Ms. Sprague advised that they need an expert structural engineer before they go to court. This will be expensive and she is wondering if the City can help with the costs. Mr. Johnson mentioned that neighborhood grants might be available. Ms. Kik suggested talking to Byce & Associates or a similar firm.
- Ms. Sprague inquired if public safety contacted the Traffic Board about monitoring the area. Mr. Hoekstra noted that there were no representatives from Public Safety at the August Traffic Board meeting. Ms. Kik stated that she had not heard from Public Safety. Officer Coakley was at the last Traffic Board meeting.
- Ms. Sprague inquired about the possibility of installing a speed bump at the intersection by Ms. Rogers' house. Mr. Hoekstra stated that speed bumps are for parking lots; speed humps are for the roadways. There are design specifications and a policy in place for speed humps. There are warrants that indicate when speed humps are appropriate. People can request them by petition and he can send that information to Ms. Sprague. She would need to provide the addresses and signatures of people in the affected blocks. People would have to sign off saying they are petitioning the City for speed humps and that petition can be submitted to the Traffic Board.
- Ms. Sprague inquired if the speed humps would present a problem for snow plows. Mr. Hoekstra advised that the City might not be able to plow the area if speed humps are installed.
- **The Traffic Board recommending that this matter be forwarded to city staff for further investigation.**

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS**

### **c. Old Colony Parker (stop signs).**

- A resident from the Old Colony/Parker neighborhood was present. He stated that the Traffic Board voted last month to reinstall the stop signs on Old Colony at Parker. There have been two red stakes place there but, so far, the signs have not been reinstalled. He inquired when the stop signs will be reinstalled.
- Mr. Johnson stated that the Traffic Board would have to defer to the maintenance staff for that schedule.
- Mr. Hoekstra advised that there is a work order requesting that the signs be reinstalled but completion of that work is a matter of field crew availability. Staff from the Engineering division put in the stakes.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next Traffic Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2015. Agenda items are to be submitted to Jim Hoekstra by September 3, 2015.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Submitted by: Amy Thomas Date: 11-4-15  
Recording Secretary

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 11/4/15  
Traffic Engineer