

**TRAFFIC BOARD
AGENDA**

**415 Stockbridge
Stockbridge Main Conference Room
February 12, 2015, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- a. Sign-in sheet to be distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes (January 8, 2015)

5. New Business

- a. Eleanor Street parking petition.

6. Old Business

- a. Burrows St. (W. Michigan-Crawford) parking.
- b. Lovell St. (Stadium-Eldred) parking.

5. Miscellaneous Comments or Concerns.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Date: Thursday, March 12, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.
- b. Agenda Items Submitted to Jim Hoekstra (hoekstraj@kalamazoocity.org) by March 5, 2015.

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
January 8, 2015
*DRAFT***

Stockbridge Main Conference Room
415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Members Present: Jim Hoekstra, Traffic Engineer
Rebekah Kik, City Planner
Matt Johnson, City Engineer
Jim Williams, Public Safety
Amy Thomas, Recording Secretary

Guests: Paul Manstrom, Kalamazoo College
Jim VanSweden, West Main Hill Neighborhood
Bruce Martin, West Main Hill Neighborhood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hoekstra called the meeting to order at 2:02 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 (November 13, 2014)

There were no changes to the November 13, 2014 minutes. The minutes were approved by the board.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Burrows St. (W. Michigan-Crawford) parking.

- Mr. VanSweden indicated that Kalamazoo College and the West Main Hill Neighborhood Association would like to increase parking on the main campus (near Lovell St.) and the athletic campus (near Burrows St.).
- Burrows Street runs north and south and they are looking at the area from Crawford to W. Main. That section of Burrows is 40 feet wide and two-way; cars can parallel park on

the west side of that portion of the road. If that area could be reconfigured to angle parking it would allow for more parking.

- Burrows North of Crawford is already one-way heading south. Sometimes the two-way traffic heading north on Burrows ignores the one-way sign and goes up the hill to South St.
- Representatives from Kalamazoo College and the neighborhood believe that if the two-way portion of Burrows St. may be reconfigured to one-way traffic to accommodate the angle parking that might be a safety benefit.
- Mr. Martin suggested the possibility of turning the whole stretch of Burrows into a one-way street or improving the signage.
- Mr. VanSweden stated that the current footage is 413 feet where the parallel parking is located. Switching to angle parking may create more parking spaces.
- Mr. Martin advised that most properties along this portion of Burrows have secondary driveways on Sprague.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that City staff put data together regarding this area. He confirmed that Burrows is fairly wide. If angle parking were created in that area, the street would have to be one-way. There is not sufficient width to have two-way traffic and angle parking. There is enough space for 35 angle parking spaces. There would be a loss of 18 parallel spaces, for a net gain of 17 parking spots.
- Curb extensions could be added at West Michigan for site distance. Angle parking would put the stop sign back too far and motorists may not be able to see it as they approach. There is a sewer drain in that location which might be impacted by the curb extension.
- Staff suggested there might be a safety benefit to convert that area to one-way traffic. There is a question regarding access for the restaurant and the apartment building nearby; they would both be impacted.
- The City of Kalamazoo does not do 90-degree parking on City streets because of safety. Also, there is not a lot of angle parking on City streets (except Academy St. in downtown Kalamazoo). Data suggests that back-in angle parking is preferred over angle parking based on safety studies conducted in other cities. It would be preferable to try it in the proposed area.
- Ms. Kik advised of the need to contact the neighbors and the neighborhood association regarding this proposal. Mr. Martin stated that he was present on behalf of the Neighborhood Association.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that a request such as this is usually petition-based. More than 50% of the owners of the property fronting on that street would need to be in favor of the project in order for it to proceed. Ms. Kik suggested the neighborhood association and the college could do a joint petition.
- Mr. Martin stated that this is a request from the Neighborhood Association and Kalamazoo College. Ms. Kik suggested going to the board first and asking what other community outreach they want. City staff will help communicate the request prior to a mailer being sent. If the board feels more education is needed, a public meeting can be scheduled. Ms. Kik mentioned there is a requirement to send a mailer to the properties in a 300-foot radius of the subject property.

- Mr. Johnson stated that he would look at the condition of the street to find out what needs to be done. There was a question as to whether the City or Kalamazoo College would be making the changes. Mr. Johnson stated that if there are no planned improvements, the City might ask for a contribution from the college for street improvements.
- Mr. VanSweden commented that if the college needs to pay for part of the project, the board would need to review that first. He requested that Mr. Johnson contact him regarding the college's share of the cost so they can take the request to their board.

b. Lovell St. (Stadium-Eldred) parking.

- Mr. VanSweden stated that Lovell Street west of the railroad tracks to Eldred is 36 feet wide and is one-way. There is parallel parking along the north side of Lovell. There is 431 feet available on the south side of that portion of the road that could possibly be converted to angle parking, which would provide more parking spaces. That area is not on campus but it is next to campus.
- Mr. Martin mentioned that the neighbors have concerns about people using the neighborhood streets for parking. He thinks the proposed changes would help alleviate that problem.
- Lovell is one way up to Eldred and is quite wide at that point. There is no traffic going downhill on the south side of Lovell, that area of the road really isn't used. No more than one lane is used going up the hill. There is room to widen the street if necessary. The side walk could be moved into the adjacent park. This would help take off the pressure for peak parking on Bulkley and Lovell.
- At times, there are a lot of cars parked on Lovell. Kalamazoo College employees utilize the parallel parking between the tracks and Eldred on the north side of the road. The majority of parking occurs on the north side of Lovell, west of Eldred.
- Mr. VanSweden stated that Kalamazoo College's next construction project is scheduled at the bottom of Academy St. There will be a fitness and wellness center and a natatorium. Details of this project are specified in the Kalamazoo College Master Plan. The college will temporarily lose parking during the construction but those spots will be recreated when the project is completed. It would be helpful to have Lovell reconfigured to provide more parking spaces during the construction. Kalamazoo College plans to break ground on the building project in 2015.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that, based on staff evaluation of the request, there would be a net loss of 2 spaces. That would include the creation of angle parking on one side and the loss of parallel parking on the other side of the road. The road width is 35.5 feet, which is only wide enough to accommodate parking on one side of the road. According to the Master Plan with MDOT this is a potential 2-way street so it would be preferable to not make a big change to the curb line. Lovell may be converted to two-way all the way down the hill. He suggested having reverse angle parking in this location if approved by the board.
- Mr. VanSweden requested verification that changing from parallel parking on the north side of Lovell to reverse angle parking on the south side of Lovell would cause a loss of two parking spots; Mr. Hoekstra confirmed that information. There are currently 28 parking spaces; there would be 26 spaces after the proposed changes. The south curb line

would have to move seven feet to accommodate parallel parking on the north side of the street. There is probably enough space to do that. However, changing the curb line now would not be cost effective if MDOT makes significant changes to that area in 2018.

- Mr. Martin and Mr. VanSweden stated that they would need to re-evaluate the proposal. Mr. Hoekstra advised that he would send them an e-mail with details about the proposed layout and parking spot calculations.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

None

8. NEXT MEETING

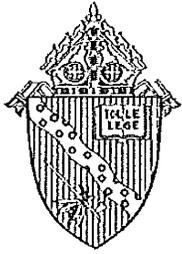
Thursday, February 12, 2015

All items to be submitted to Mr. Hoekstra by February 5, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Traffic Engineer



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO
[Diocese of Kalamazoo Letterhead]

215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760
(269) 349-8714 FAX (269) 349-6440

February 5, 2015

City of Kalamazoo
Traffic Board
Attn: Jim Hoekstra, P.E.
415 Stockbridge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

RE: Petition to Modify Parking along Eleanor Street

Dear Mr. Hoekstra:

Please find enclosed a petition to modify the parking along Eleanor Street, on the section of the street between Westnedge and Old Orchard. As is identified in the petition, the request is namely to:

- Install "No Parking" signs on the north side of the 500 block of Eleanor Street between Old Orchard and Westnedge; and
- To establish 90 minute parking between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm (except Sundays and holidays) on the south side of the 500 block of Eleanor Street.

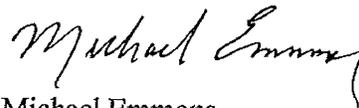
It has come to our attention that a good number of individuals are parking along the north side of the 500 block of Eleanor and then walking downtown, presumably to their places of work. The cars remain all day, limiting parking to for those who are visiting the Eleanor House, St. Vincent DePaul, surrounding houses and the recently constructed park on the south side of Eleanor Street. Additionally, the north side of Eleanor contains a good number of driveways that service residences, so parking on this side of the street presents sightline problems related to ingress and egress from those driveways. It is our position that shifting the parking from the north side of Eleanor to the south side of Eleanor, as well as limiting the parking to 90 minutes, affords the following benefits:

- It facilitates use of the park;
- It cleans up sight lines on the north side of the street, in order to accommodate traffic flow from driveways on the north side;
- Access to existing fire hydrants is enhanced;

- Individuals who currently use the area for long term parking will be forced to find more appropriate parking areas;
- Safety will be improved for drivers and pedestrians; and
- Visitors to the Eleanor House, St. Vincent DePaul, the park, and surrounding homes will more readily find parking spaces.

Please contact us should you have any questions, comments or concerns, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Emmons".

Michael Emmons
Executive Director
Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

