

**TRAFFIC BOARD
AGENDA**

**415 Stockbridge
Stockbridge Main Conference Room
July 9, 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 (June 11, 2015)

5. New Business

- a. Portage Road No Parking (Pitcher to Reed)
- b. 1201 Hays Park Concerns
- c. Parker and Old Colony All-way stop

6. Old Business

- a. Lovell St. Parking (Stadium Drive to Eldred Street).

7. Miscellaneous Comments or Concerns.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.
- b. Agenda Items Submitted to Jim Hoekstra (hoekstraj@kalamazoocity.org)
by August 6, 2015.

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
June 11, 2015
DRAFT**

Stockbridge Main Conference Room
415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Members Present: Jim Hoekstra, Traffic Engineer
Rob Bauckham, Assistant City Planner (City Planner Designee)
Debbie Jung, Assistant City Engineer (City Engineer Designee)
Vernon Coakley, Executive Lieutenant, Public Safety
Sue Foune, Public Services Director
Amy Thomas, Recording Secretary

Guests: Jim VanSweden, Kalamazoo College; Bruce Martin, West Main Hill
Neighborhood; Lorene Cook, Vassihki Kettner, Tom Kopinski, Rebecca
Silence, Janet M. Jones, Brian Desmond, Keith Jones (re: Indiana Street
parking petition).

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

The aforementioned members were present at the meeting. A sign-in sheet was circulated for members and guests to sign.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda

The June 11, 2015 Traffic Board Agenda was approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 9, 2015)

Mr. Bauckham referred to the first bullet point and stated that John Durham was present to represent the developer.

The minutes were approved unanimously with the aforementioned change.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Indiana Street parking petition

- The petition requested alternate-side, overnight parking on Indiana Street from W. Maple to Hillcrest.

- Originally, two petitions were circulated: One for Indiana St. from Maple to Howard and another one for Indiana Street from Maple to Hillcrest. Fifty percent of the property owners on Indiana from Maple to Hillcrest were in favor of the parking petition. Only 36% of property owners on Indiana from Maple to Howard were in favor of that petition. Ms. Kettner stated that both petitions were submitted to show that they tried to get approval for a longer section of the street. Mr. Hoekstra stated that it would be preferable to include multiple blocks.
- Vicki Kettner was present to discuss the petition she initiated. Originally, all four property owners on Indiana Street from Maple to Hillcrest signed in favor of the petition. She spoke with Tom Kopinski about issues he shared with the neighbors.
- Lorene Cook stated that she lives across from Ms. Kettner. Ms. Cook wasn't home when Ms. Kettner stopped by with the petition. Ms. Cook stated that she moved from the Vine Neighborhood where alternate side parking is a big issue for residents. She didn't want to deal with that situation and that is why she moved to her present location.
- Residents noted that they believe Ms. Kettner can remedy the issue on her own property. Some of the neighbors have offered other remedies.
- Neighbors also feel that the rest of the neighbors should not be subjected to an ordinance change or signs in their yards. It is an expense to the City to provide/install the signs and to enforce the ordinance.
- Mr. Hoekstra advised that staff performed a field investigation to look at site conditions. Staff did not observe anything that would be a hindrance to the request.
- Ms. Kettner stated that she was sensitive to asking neighbors to accommodate her personal property issues. Her driveway has four different planes and a one-car garage that barely allows one vehicle. This is not an issue in the summer time but it is difficult during the winter. She can do some parallel parking on/by her property. Modifying her property would require thousands of dollars. She was offered support to make those changes but cannot proceed with them now.
- Ms. Cook mentioned that other neighbors have corrected parking issues on their property. Also there is parking overnight on Cherry Street and at the school administration building on Howard Street.
- Mr. Bauckham advised that from a zoning standpoint, it might be possible to add a parking spot next to the driveway. You can't have more than 30% of the front yard as parking area. Indiana Street currently has no overnight parking.
- Ms. Founé inquired if the requests approved in the past were similar to the current petition. Mr. Hoekstra stated that there have been a few of each. One was 50% exactly. The board approved it due to the location and there was not as much opposition. Ms. Founé suggested tabling this agenda item and researching what happened last time.
- **Mr. Bauckham moved to postpone the decision regarding the Indiana Street parking petition pending further research on this issue. No objections were voiced regarding the motion.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Lovell Street parking (Stadium Drive to Eldred Street)

- Mr. VanSweden stated that he attended the Traffic Board meeting on January 9th with a request from Kalamazoo College for back-in angle parking on Lovell.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that there would be a gain of 36 parking spaces and a loss of 36 parking spaces. He questioned why the applicants are proceeding with the request.
- Mr. VanSweden stated that the college and the neighborhood association are in favor of marking the maximum number of usable parking spaces in that area. Petitioners feel that back-in angle parking will be easier for the motorists to use. The request will benefit Kalamazoo College and the neighborhood.
- Because of the hill, backing into the curb limits potential for rolling down the hill; back-in angle parking in this location might be favorable.
- Bruce Martin, Representative from the West Main Hill Neighborhood, stated that he would like to help Kalamazoo College with the parking issues. He goes through that area twice every day. He feels that people do not make efficient use of the parallel parking.
- It was noted that there is a wall on one side of the street and during the winter months it is hard to find places to put the snow. People parallel park on both sides of the street and the road gets constricted.
- If approved, Kalamazoo College has committed to clearing the street in that area as it would be an extension of their parking lot.
- A request was made to have City staff take a look at angle parking by the bottom of Lovell hill by Stadium Dr.
- Mr. VanSweden inquired if parallel parking is less apt to cause a fender bender on slippery streets. Officer Coakley stated that he doesn't have the data for that.
- Mr. VanSweden commented that if the reverse angle parking doesn't proceed, it would still be beneficial to have the parallel parking spaces marked. That would increase the efficiency of the parking spaces. Mr. Hoekstra stated that the board has dealt with marked spaces in the past; the key concern is cost. Consistency is also an issue. People will want parking spaces marked everywhere in the downtown area if they see that it has been done elsewhere.
- Mr. Martin inquired if angle parking could be added east of the railroad tracks on the south side of the road. It appears there is room for a half dozen spaces there. Mr. Hoekstra stated that City staff didn't consider that area when looking for additional parking. Parking spaces cannot be placed near high speed rail. He was uncertain as to how many spaces could be added in that area.
- Mr. Hoekstra stated that the City would do the markings for the parking spaces. Curbs/bump-outs would not be added by the City at this point because of the possible conversion of Lovell to two-way traffic by MDOT.
- **Officer Coakley was in favor of postponing the decision on this agenda item until the next meeting. There were no objections from the Board.**
- Mr. Hoekstra suggested taking action at the next meeting, since this matter has been on the agenda since January.
- Ms. Foune inquired as to whose budget would cover the costs. She also inquired if Kalamazoo College would plow the parking spots.

- Mr. Martin stated that he was waiting to hear from City staff regarding the cost of the bump-out on Burrows. He suggested checking with WMU to find out if they could help with costs. Mr. Hoekstra stated that the City Engineer would need to check on that.
- Mr. VanSweden stated that Kalamazoo College wants to approach adjacent property owners to let them know about the proposal. Traffic would have to go to one-way on Burrows. Kalamazoo College might decide against it, depending on the cost.

7. Miscellaneous Comments or Concerns

Ms. Kettner returned to the Board after her agenda item was heard. She stated that she would like to withdraw her petition.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Dated: _____

Approved by: _____
Traffic Engineer

Dated: _____