

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
April 12, 2018**

Stockbridge Main Conference Room, 1st Floor
415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Traffic Board Members Present: James Baker, Director of Public Services
Danielle Guilds, Public Safety
Christina Anderson, City Planner, CP&D

Members Excused: Jeff Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager
Jim Ritsema, City Manager

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: Orrin Dorr, Public Works Division Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Baker conducted roll call and determined that the aforementioned members were present and quorum existed. Ms. Anderson supported by Mr. Dorr, made a motion to excuse the aforementioned members. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the April 12, 2018 Agenda. Ms. Anderson supported by Ms. Guilds, made a motion to approve the April 12, 2018 Agenda. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February 8, 2018)

There were no changes to the February 8, 2018 Traffic Board minutes. Ms. Anderson supported by Ms. Guild, made a motion to approve the February 8, 2018 Traffic Board minutes. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Vine Neighborhood Parking Discussion

Mr. Baker opened up the meeting for discussion of the Vine Neighborhood. Ms. Anderson stated she attended a public meeting for Neighborhood Plan for the Vine Neighborhood. One of the topics of discussion was parking. Ms. Anderson presented a Map of the Vine Neighborhood. She stated there are twenty-two different parking regulations in the Vine Neighborhood including meters, different times, overnight parking, and signage. In the meeting there were a lot of complaints about parking problems.

Ms. Anderson stated there is an interest to look at Vine holistically in terms of its parking restrictions. Given the quantity of restrictions and all the new residents who live in Vine, they are struggling with the restrictions as they are now including daytime and overnight. There is interest to have the residents, with the City, sit down and look at Vine as a whole and figure out where changes can be made.

Ms. Anderson suggested it would require an understanding of when and by whom the petitions were made and what restrictions were done years ago. With this information the City and residents can sit down and have a conversation. Ms. Anderson noted, from the initial Neighborhood Plan meeting they had two other topics that required additional discussions; housing issues and youth issues. Ms. Anderson stated she envisioned having the same type of meeting for parking issues. She stated we do not need to solve problems or make changes before the neighborhood plan is done which she anticipates will happen in the coming months. Ms. Anderson stated she wants to set up action items and make a plan as to how to look at this.

Mr. Baker stated they know how the parking situation has evolved. He noted Vine is a high transient population; parking changes are authorized through our petition process. People move away and others move in and for whatever reason the new residents do not like the parking situation and petition a change. Mr. Baker suggests he could create a map identifying every street and give Ms. Anderson a template of what they can do. Then they can start having the conversations with everyone else. With the maps they can present each street noting what that particular street is allowed. He stated a street has to be 35 feet, curb to curb, to have parking on both sides of the street and 27.5 feet to have parking on one side of the street. If the width is less than 27.5 feet then no parking is allowed.

Mr. Baker stated there are also parking regulations that do not change, i.e. parking in front of hydrants, no parking 25 feet from a stop sign, no parking in front of a drive cut, etc. Mr. Baker noted that Ms. Anderson should discuss these regulations at the meeting. Ms. Anderson stated these items can be stated as a reminder in a report.

Mr. Baker stated the City gives out temporary parking permits during construction and for various needs. The temporary parking permit allows them to park on the street but the permits do not allow any parking in front of hydrants or near stop signs, etc.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were petitions that can be seen from the past to know why they asked for the parking change or would it be better to start from scratch. Mr. Baker suggested starting from scratch, look at a map, identify each street and their width and go from there. The

options are; 1) at 2:00 am everyone has to move their car or, 2) parking on one side of the street one night and parking on the other side of the street the next night. Ms. Anderson asked where overnight parking has been allowed. Mr. Baker responded overnight parking is only allowed where we can flip parking each night.

Ms. Anderson asked if this board would be the one to approve potential new plans. Mr. Baker responded this board is where new plans are approved. He stated he would want property owners input. Ms. Anderson stated she could get that information. She is asking for parking options and maps.

Mr. Baker stated parking is beneficial to pedestrian because it creates a buffer. In high crime areas they have challenges with parking on both sides with drug activity, etc. Vine has a history high crime although it is getting better.

Ms. Anderson stated she would like to change the City ordinance of overnight parking and allow for resident permitting, purchasing an overnight pass, a guest pass or temporary pass. Mr. Baker stated there has to be a time period to allow plows, leaf pick up, and street cleaners.

Ms. Anderson stated there are older homes that do not have a driveway. Mr. Baker stated the City allows overnight parking, for a limited time, for those who have visitors and need to park in the street.

Ms. Anderson asked about a time frame to organizing a meeting, possibly two meetings, to discuss the changes. Mr. Baker stated to give him a month to think about it. The big challenge now is the City is entering into construction season and the guys are working to get projects started. Ms. Anderson asked if a meeting at the end June would be possible. Mr. Baker agreed the end of June would work.

Mr. Baker asked if Joe Stark had road dimensions/widths. Mr. Dorr stated all that information can be found on Roadsoft. Ms. Anderson stated she needed someone to create a color coded map indicating what is existing along with another color indicating what the option for that street is.

Mr. Dorr asked if they would then petition for a change. Ms. Anderson stated they would not do a petition. They would do it through the neighborhood format, do a couple of meetings, possibly additional outreach, and then it would come before this board. Ms. Anderson stated having some of the petition people at the meeting would be helpful. Mr. Baker stated that if we are going to make a change and the majority of land owners are against that change, they would by right be able to petition what they want. Ms. Anderson responded she understood she would have to have majority of land owners on board with the change but would not do individual petitions because this is the point of doing the change on a larger setting.

Mr. Dorr stated the petitions work well. Mr. Baker agreed it has worked well. Ms. Anderson stated this is why there are so many parking regulations in this small area.

Ms. Guilds asked how we can prevent this from happening again. Mr. Baker stated it probably took forty - fifty years to get where they are now. Ms. Anderson stated we could use this as education, why the regulations are there, why there is no parking on the court, etc.

Ms. Anderson noted on Long Road there is no day time parking. There are some homes that have no driveways or short driveways and they may want to have guest park on the street during the day. Mr. Baker stated they have the option to get a temporary parking permit.

Prospect St, North of W. Main

Ms. Anderson stated a resident, who lives on Prospect St, north of W. Main, has a small driveway and has to park her small camper on the street. Each night she has to move it due to the parking restriction that states parking allowed one side of the street one night and the other side of the street the next night.

Mr. Baker asked what the width is of Prospect. Ms. Anderson stated regardless of the width the street has overnight parking that flips sides each night. Mr. Baker stated she can get an overnight parking permit. Mr. Baker asked if Prospect is an Act 51 street and Mr. Orr responded it is.

Ms. Anderson stated the resident is asking if the parking restriction can be changed to allow parking either side of the street. Mr. Baker suggested she could change it to lock in one side parking. Ms. Anderson stated the street plowing or sweeping would not happen on that side of the street and asked if that would be a good option. Mr. Baker stated if the other land owners agreed with it than it could be an option for her.

Mr. Baker stated they can talk about it, take a look, and check the width of the road. He stated if there is no sidewalk, curb or gutter, you can park in the right of way. After looking on GIS, Ms. Anderson stated there is a sidewalk. Mr. Baker stated he will come up with solutions and present them to Ms. Anderson.

Mr. Baker suggested she could cut in another drive. Mr. Dorr stated there is only one drive allowed per home.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Parking Petitions for N. Edwards Street and Oak St.

Mr. Baker stated they approved the parking petition on N. Edwards St. which was to reinstate no parking, no standing, no stopping on the left and right sides of N. Edwards Street between the railroad tracks and Ransom Street. Also approved was the parking petition for Oak St. to eliminate the 2 hour parking on Oak Street between W. South Street and W. Lovell St. and restore the city ordinance of no parking between 2:00am and 6:00am.

Mr. Baker stated he wanted to add this to Old Business to check with staff that it has been completed and all signs were either put up or taken down. He stated he wants these tasks completed before the next board meeting.

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

None

8. NEXT MEETING

- Date: Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 2:00 P.M, 415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, Stockbridge Main Conference Room, 1st Floor
- Agenda items submitted to Karen Rutherford (rutherfordk@kalamazoocity.org) by May 2, 2018.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Rutherford
Recording Secretary

Date: 7-12-18

Approved by: James J. Baker
Staff Liaison

Date: 7-12-2018