

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
October 11, 2018**

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

Traffic Board Members Present: Eric Arnsman, Traffic Engineer
Matt Huber, 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
Jesse Okeley, Traffic Tech
Richard Wheeler, Resident

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Arnsman conducted roll call and determined that the aforementioned members were present and quorum existed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the October 11, 2018 Agenda. Ms. Anderson supported by Mr. Huber, made a motion to approve the October 11, 2018 Agenda. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 13, 2018)

There were no changes to the September 13, 2018 Traffic Board Minutes. Ms. Anderson supported by Mr. Huber, made a motion to approve the September 13, 2018 Traffic Board Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Parking Sign Placement - Broadway Ave. from Crosswinds Dr. to Winchell Ave.

- Mr. Arnsman opened discussion for the parking sign placement on Broadway Ave. from Crosswinds Dr. to Winchell Ave.
- Mr. Wheeler stated he submitted a petition to the Board and the petition stated to have the no parking signs placed at the north end of the property of the school and the church. Mr. Wheeler stated when he spoke to Jesse Okeley, the Traffic Tech, Jesse communicated to him the signs are posted block to block but this information did not register with him. So when he made his rounds to the neighbors, the church, and the school he communicated to them the signs would be posted at the north end of the property for the school and the church. Mr. Wheeler stated that was the way the petition was originally structured. Mr. Wheeler presented a copy of the petition request to the committee.
- Mr. Wheeler stated once he realized the signs were going to be posted at each end of the block he contacted the office and asked if the signs on three properties on the north end of the block could be eliminated and place them at the north end of the school and church property. He was told at that time the normal procedure is the signs are posted from block to block. Mr. Wheeler stated the initiative the neighbors have taken to get the signs in place is for safety of students, parents, faculty, the neighbors on Broadway, and the neighborhood in general. The signs were not to go beyond the property on the north end. Mr. Wheeler stated having the placement of the signs beyond the north property line of the school and church does not serve any useful purpose to the safety issue.
- Mr. Wheeler stated they are asking for a variance to the normal practice for two things: 1) to facilitate the safety of the school and the intersection; 2) to accommodate the three addresses at the north end of the block who have expressed to him their unhappiness of the signs that have been placed in front of their property. Although they are in support of the signs being placed at the north end of the school and church for the safety issue. Mr. Wheeler presented a variance letter requesting the signs be removed from the neighbors located at 2106, 2212, and 2222 Broadway and placed at the north end of the school and church property line.
- Mr. Wheeler stated he does not represent the Winchell Neighborhood Association, although he is a member of the association. The association has had many conversations, and conversation with the police over the past couple of years, and they have taken under advisement the concerns with the crossing guard who was nearly hit by a vehicle on five occasions and something needs to be done. He is requesting the blinking lights powered by solar panel be added to the east and west stop signs located at the intersection of Winchell and Broadway. Mr. Wheeler presented a letter asking for blinking stop light at the intersection of Winchell and Broadway.
- Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Wheeler if he is in the Transportation Committee for the Association. Mr. Wheeler stated he is in the Safety Committee. Ms. Anderson stated the Transportation Committee met, with Director James Baker in attendance of the meeting, and the LED Stops came up, and while the Traffic Board does not have a say over the types of signage used for traffic control devices, it certainly registered with the neighborhood plan. The City is taking a comprehensive look at Winchell, Rambling and

other streets to see what traffic control devices are appropriate, what style, location, crosswalks and sidewalks, and how they can better function.

- Ms. Anderson stated the stop sign issue is being looked into for the neighborhood plan and is a separate item from what the Traffic Board would address. Today's Board cannot make a decision on the stop sign issue.
- Mr. Wheeler stated his concern, along with the neighbors represented, is the safety issue at the Broadway and Winchell intersection and has been for many years. It has been talked about with the principle at the school, with the assistant director of education on Howard Street and everyone has had an opinion. For the last three to four years there has been a lot of talk and no action. They are concerned that something devastating could happen and nothing has been done. Mr. Wheeler stated adding lights to the stop sign supported by solar panels as he saw on Monroe and Lovell Streets would be beneficial. Ms. Anderson stated the lighted signs on Monroe and Lovell Streets were only to be up temporarily and will probably come down this fall. They were only intended to be up for a year to alert everyone to the new four-way stop where previously there was only a two-way stop and the City wanted everyone to get use to the change.
- Ms. Anderson stated she is hopeful with the neighborhood plan. They are looking at the area overall to understand what the safety concerns are. The types of signs and where signs go are based on specific standards. Ms. Anderson stated this Board does not make a decision on whether or not to put up a stop sign but she believes something will come out of what Director Baker is studying in the area.
- Ms. Anderson stated it is presented before the Board if the City can or will vary from how it places parking signs. She stated she understands, from the rules, another petition would have to be presented so everyone who signed the original petition understands there has been a change to the petition. Mr. Arnsman stated since the petition was approved and the signs have been installed, then another petition would need to be proposed to have the signs removed and a new proposal presented for a variance to the policy for putting up a new parking sign.
- Ms. Anderson stated the committee could not act on a change today because a new petition would need to be presented. Mr. Arnsman agreed. Ms. Anderson asked if the City would vary from where they place parking signs. Presently, the City places parking signs from block to block. She stated there is no point in having Mr. Wheeler go through the petition process if the City is not going to vary from its standard. Ms. Anderson questioned whether the decision should be made today or if it's something the Board should look into for prior instances in the City and make a decision later.
- Mr. Wheeler stated to make a variance request is not something new for the City. There have been many variances issued in other areas over the years. Ms. Anderson stated she is not sure this Board has dealt with variances. She stated the zoning Board of Appeals has dealt with variances to the zoning code but she is not sure if this Board is set up to vary from its standards.

- Mr. Wheeler asked if it necessary to go through the steps to have this request considered. Mr. Arnsman stated yes, to have the signs removed, another petition would have to be presented since the original petition was approved and the signs have been placed.
- Mr. Arnsman stated he would want to have further discussions with the Board members regarding the variance before a decision could be made.
- Mr. Dorr asked Mr. Wheeler if he had understood the placement of the signs were block to block, would he still have followed through and brought to the petition to the Board to get it approved. Mr. Wheeler stated he would have. The neighbors have stated the safety at the school is most important to them.
- Mr. Wheeler stated the issue is one he brought upon himself by not understanding what he was being told. He went back and read the petition and it does say from cross-street to cross-street but it did not register to him. Mr. Wheeler stated when he was at the meeting and he spoke to the Board, he indicated the petition stated that it was from the north end and not corner to corner. Mr. Wheeler feels there is some obligation on the Board side to recognize someone did not point out to him the discrepancy that the request says this and the petition says that.
- Mr. Arnsman asked if the neighbors who want the signs removed, do they want to keep the parking in front of their homes. Mr. Wheeler stated yes, two of the houses are on Broadway and one is on Crosswinds. Mr. Wheeler stated Crosswinds dead ends into Broadway.
- Mr. Arnsman asked if essentially there is no parking during the school day, in front of the school. Mr. Wheeler stated yes. The people are using the parking lots.
- Mr. Arnsman asked if the school is on the east side of Broadway and the church on the west side. Mr. Wheeler stated yes and the property lines end basically at the same point.
- Mr. Arnsman stated the kids are going back and forth and asked if they were just being dropped off on the west side of Broadway and then running across. Mr. Wheeler stated when the parents drop off and pick up their children they are on the north and south side of Winchell and on the east and west side of Broadway when they come and go. The school buses are the same way. Mr. Wheeler stated there is a church on the east side of the property and for many years has approved the use of their parking lot. The church on the west side has for many years given approval to use their parking lot any time, as well as for events. Mr. Arnsman stated he assumes the church is not in use during the day, Monday through Friday. Mr. Wheeler stated that is correct.
- Ms. Anderson asked if the drop off and pick up have been the problem. Mr. Wheeler stated no that people have been parking on both sides of Broadway for years and when the parents drop off and pick up the children there is a lot of congestion and it narrows

the street down. In the winter time when the snow plows come down it narrows the street even more to the point only one vehicle can get through, going in either direction.

- Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Wheeler if he had seen the survey the principle sent out to Winchell families who go to the school about parking, drop off, and do they walk/drive to school. Mr. Wheeler stated no but he knew it was coming. Mr. Wheeler stated when he met with the principle back in May, he indicated to Mr. Wheeler they had a lot of conversations about this topic and no one had taken the initiative. Mr. Wheeler told him he would take the initiative to get this accomplished.
- Ms. Anderson stated the Board decided last month to approve the no parking at this location. The question before them today is do they have to come back to the Board with another petition. They have an applicant here today who is speaking on behalf of the people on the petition list. Ms. Anderson asked if the decision needs to be pushed back to the next meeting so the committee can have confirmation that the other residents who signed the original petition are ok with the change. Ms. Anderson stated the technical decision is they would need another petition. Mr. Dorr agreed and stated another petition is needed.
- Mr. Dorr stated the Board could table this issue for now, do additional research to see if there is an option to not have to go through another petition process. The Board would notify Mr. Wheeler of their findings. Ms. Anderson asked if a signed letter from the three residents would be sufficient or would another petition be required.
- Mr. Arnsman stated going through the process to make a variance and not documenting it could set precedence for future variance requests. Going through the proper processes will be fair to everyone now and for the future.
- Mr. Wheeler asked the Board if they were asking him to get another petition signed along with a letter from the three property owners north of the school and church. Ms. Anderson stated he should get a petition stating the property owners agree with the change but before he does he should wait to hear the decision of the Board as to whether they will allow for the variance.
- Mr. Dorr stated there is essentially two properties on the block and, as an example, if they go to a residential neighborhood and there is an entire street that request parking in front of this house, no parking in front of the next house, parking in front of the next house, no parking in front of the next house and so on, it would make enforcement impossible and very difficult to track and sign. The signs are placed block to block for consistency. Mr. Dorr stated the houses at the north end of Broadway are at a slight disadvantage, but since there is parking on the side street, what does it accomplish to approve this variance. Mr. Dorr stated in approving the no parking the safety issues were met and it was a good idea.
- Mr. Wheeler stated he appreciated Mr. Dorr's comments but the properties here, referring to the church and school, are commercial properties and their properties end basically at

the same point. From that point on you get into residential properties. He stated to have the signs removed would not create any issues.

- Ms. Anderson stated this Board has not been faced with this request before and the Board cannot take any action today. She stated the Board needs to determine what precedence they need to make, either keeping the signage at full block or partial block. This is something the Board can discuss over the next week, make a decision, and get back to Mr. Wheeler so he can be prepared and know how to precede before the next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Vine Neighborhood Parking Discussion

- Ms. Anderson stated as soon as she gets the information from Brian Burlingham they can sit down and discuss how the neighborhood is going to proceed. The Vine Neighborhood has been told what the process is for changing the parking standards. The Vine Neighborhood has 22 different regulations in a very small area. The goal is to look at it and discuss what people would like to do. This will be done through some sort of process in the neighborhood. Ms. Anderson stated she does not know what that process looks like at this point but the neighborhood will make a proposal, she will discuss it with them to finalize it, and then bring their proposal to the Board for approval.

Wildlife Signage

- Mr. Anderson stated Director Baker had initiated this. Mr. Huber stated it was about the geese crossing on Crosstown Parkway. Ms. Rutherford stated Director Baker was working with the City Attorney's Office to get the proper wording that will reflect it is unlawful to purposely run over deer, ducks, geese, wildlife, etc.
- Mr. Arnsman asked if it was a state or federal law. Mr. Huber stated he would find out and get back to Mr. Arnsman.

Speed Bumps

- Ms. Anderson asked where the placement of the speed bumps would be. Mr. Okeley stated one would go on Academy, one on Paterson, towards the west side of Lacrone Park, and one on W. Maple St, between S. Burdick St. and S Park St., after the "S" curve. Mr. Dorr stated they will be placing them next week.
- Mr. Dorr stated they are rated for 25 MPH. Mr. Arnsman stated he saw a video where certain ones would shift if people hit them at higher rates of speed.
- Ms. Anderson stated she thought the speed bumps were temporary. Mr. Okeley stated the one they will put on Paterson has around 700 bolts. Ms. Anderson stated she thought they would be taking them up in the winter. Mr. Huber stated they want to see how they will do in the winter with the snow plows.

- Mr. Okeley stated these are 14' table style speed bumps where they have a two foot approach ramp and go flat and two foot exit ramp.
- Mr. Dorr stated once the speed bumps are installed we will find out if people like them or not, then determine if we should place them in more locations, and possibly switch to asphalt ramps instead.
- Mr. Arnsman asked if there were bike lanes along the areas where the speed bumps are being placed. Ms. Anderson stated Academy is a designated bike route, Paterson is not, and that stretch of Maple is not.

Northside Neighborhood Parking

- Mr. Arnsman asked about the Northside Neighborhood Parking. Ms. Anderson stated they will begin this parking study after the Vine Neighborhood Parking Study.
- Ms. Anderson stated she has a request for a third neighborhood parking study. She stated they are currently doing a downtown parking study. There is a team of consultants who have created a map with the number of parking spaces in the study area and would like to have this information verified. Ms. Anderson stated she has the base map and will plot it. She needs someone look at it to verify it is correct. Ms. Anderson stated they will be using this information to do the parking study counts next month. Ms. Anderson stated she is recruiting student volunteers to do the counts. She stated DKI is running this project but feels we should be doing it. Ms. Anderson stated the consultants will analyze this information during the winter and determine where parking meters should be and where they should not be, pricing, ramp information. This study will help guide people to certain spaces at certain times, it will help determine if they need to add on-street parking where we do not have it now, do we have loading zones we don't need, etc. The consultants are Nelson/Nygaard and MKSK.

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

- Mr. Arnsman stated he is excited to be here and jump on board and try to help as best as he can. Ms. Anderson stated she would like Mr. Arnsman to meet the rest of her staff and will send him a calendar invite to their standing Friday morning meeting. Mr. Arnsman stated he would be there.

8. NEXT MEETING

- Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 2:00 P.M, 415 E. Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, Stockbridge Main Conference Room, 1st Floor
- Agenda items submitted to Karen Rutherford (rutherfordk@kalamazoo.org) by October 31, 2018.

Adjourn

- Mr. Arnsman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- **Mr. Dorr supported by Ms. Anderson, made a motion to approve to adjourn the meeting. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.**
- The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Rutherford
Recording Secretary

Date: 11-8-18

Approved by: [Signature]
Staff Liaison

Date: 11/8/2018

The Petition is being submitted to have -

PARKING SIGNS PLACED ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF BROADWAY

ON THE EAST SIDE OF BROADWAY BETWEEN WINCHELL AND THE END OF THE SCHOOL NORTH EAST PROPERTY LINE.

ON THE WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY BETWEEN WINCHELL AND THE THIRD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH NORTH WEST PROPERTY LINE.

NO PARKING MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

OPTION NO PARKING

Dick Wheeler

To the Kalamazoo City Traffic Department October 11, 2018

The Winchell & Broadway neighbor are requesting that blinking lights power by solar panel be added to the east and west Stop sings located at the intersection of Winchell and Broadway.

We are requesting the same system now located at Monroe and Lovell streets

This will address drivers running through the intersection drawing their attention to stopping.

Blinking lights would not be required on the north and south stop sings as they are not run.

What is required from the neighborhood to have the city of Kalamazoo approve our request.

Richard J. Wheeler

To the Kalamazoo City Traffic Department October 11, 2018

The neighbors located at 2106 - 2212 - and 2222 Broadway are requesting a VARIANCE for sing placement and eliminate the no parking sings that have been placed on their property. The safety issue addressed by the initiative of the neighbors is a unique situation with the location of Winchell school to the neighborhood.

The intent of the petition that was submitter and approved at the September Traffic meeting stated for no parking sings to be placed from the intersection of Winchell and Broadway north to the end of the school and church north property line.

The placement of the sings to those two properties address a safety concern that has existed for years for students parents school employees at Winchell school as well as the neighbors. This concern became a pressing issue this past school year when the crossing guard was almost hit five times while assisting students and parents crossing Wicshell and most effected Broadway.

Eliminating parking on the east and west side of Broadway to their north property line greatly reduces the congestion at the school during the school year including the winter when the street is plowed reducing the width of the street allowing only one vehicle to pass at a time.

Having the no parking sings placed beyond the north property line of the school and church does not serve any useful purpose to the safety issue. Therefore we are respectfully requesting that the sings placed at the addresses above be removed and all others remain in place.

Hopefully common sense can guide us here.

Submitted by the spokesperson for the Broadway neighbors,

Richard J. Wheeler

