

**City of Kalamazoo
TRAFFIC BOARD
Minutes
August 12, 2021**

ELECTRONIC MEETING

Traffic Board

Members Present: Christina Anderson, City Planner, CP&D
Anthony Ladd, Public Works Division Manager
Dennis Randolph, Traffic Engineer, Public Works
Scott VanderEnde, Executive Lieutenant, KDPS

Members Excused: James Baker, Public Services Director
Scott Borling, City Clerk
Jeff Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager
Matthew Huber, Assistant Chief, KDPS
Teresa Johnson, Deputy Director, Public Services
Jim Ritsema, City Manager

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: Leslie Hoffman, Central City Parking

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ladd called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Ladd conducted roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present, and quorum existed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Member Anderson requested to add Vine Parking to Old Business. Committee Member Anderson supported by Committee Member Randolph, made a motion to approve the August 12, 2021 Agenda, as amended. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 8, 2021)

There were no changes to the April 8, 2021 Traffic Board Minutes. Committee Member Anderson supported by Committee Member VanderEnde, made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 Traffic Board Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion was carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Changes to Metered Handicap Spaces – Comerica Building – Central City Parking

Committee Chair Ladd opened discussion for requested changes to the metered handicap spaces in front of the Comerica Building.

Leslie Hoffman, with Central City Parking, stated she is representing Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership. There are eight metered handicap parking spaces in the alley off Rose Street. They sit off the alley and up against the Coamerica building. These parking spaces are used by employees who work in the Comerica Building. After hours and on the weekends these spaces sit empty. There is not a high demand for them after hours. Ms. Hoffman asked if these handicap spaces can be designated handicap during the day and then open for regular parking after hours and on the weekends.

Committee Member Randolph stated he is not aware of any timed handicapped parking spaces. His concern is with how to clearly mark them as part time use. Practically speaking we could put up a sign for handicap spaces for certain periods, but it would make it difficult to enforce.

Ms. Hoffman noted there are other handicap spaces in the area on Rose Street and on Academy Street.

Ms. Hoffman explained that Chris Shook made arrangements for these handicap parking spaces with the City years ago. He offered his property for the extra spaces for the parking system. There is an easement on his property. These spaces are owned and operated by Central City Parking. Someone who rents space in the Coamerica building has a great need for handicap spaces. They do not want the handicap spaces to go away. She stated they were thinking creatively to see if those spaces can be used after hours when they are not in high demand.

Committee Chair Ladd asked if zoning or public safety had any concerns. Committee Member Anderson stated the zoning code does not call out the number of handicap spaces. It's an accessibility code tied to building code. Building code requires an amount of parking except for buildings in downtown. Buildings downtown are parking exempt because they are using shared parking spaces. There is no zoning issue to weigh in on as it relates to this.

Committee Member VanderEnde stated those areas are enforced by Central City Parking and Kalamazoo Public Safety Parking does not enforce this area.

Committee Member Randolph stated confusion would be a problem. He suggested it would be better to keep it handicap all the time to eliminate any confusion.

Committee Member Randolph suggested eliminating some of the handicap spaces. Ms. Hoffman stated they would not be willing to give up any spaces. Committee Chair Ladd suggested turning them into reserved spaces from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM instead of handicap spaces.

Committee Chair Ladd stated they will table the decision for now while Ms. Hoffman takes the suggestions back for further discussion with Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership.

Relocating of Handicap Spaces – Former Fandango Restaurant – Central City Parking

Committee Chair Ladd opened discussion for relocating of handicap spaces.

Ms. Hoffman stated this request is coming from Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership. A restaurant may be moving into the space on the Mall on South Street where Fandango used to be. They plan to have outdoor eating in the future. There is a handicap parking space by their building. They are requesting to move the handicap parking space across the street. Eventually they are hoping to put in a parklet in the parking space since there is not much space in the sidewalk there.

Committee Member Randolph stated there is a lot of area on the mall to set up outdoor dining. He suggested meeting with them and Ms. Hoffman to discuss alternatives for the parklet.

Committee Member Anderson stated Fandango had outdoor seating. She noted you have to be careful to keep it in front of the business and not encroach on the adjoining business. The South Street side is not an option for outdoor seating.

Committee Chair Ladd stated if they move the handicap space, they would be losing a parking space.

Committee Member Randolph asked Ms. Hoffman to set up a meeting with the tentative owner to discuss this in more detail.

Committee Chair Ladd stated they will table a decision for now while Ms. Hoffman sets up a meeting with tentative new owner and Committee Member Randolph for further discussions.

Parking Signage Restriction – South Edwards – Jeff Chamberlain

Committee Chair Ladd opened discussion for the parking signage restriction on South Edwards.

Committee Member Randolph stated he went to the location and stated there is a No Parking - Taxi Stand sign that was used by a previous user. Currently, it is not in use at this time. He proposed to eliminate the taxi stand signage.

Committee Chair Ladd, supported by Committee Member Anderson, made a motion to approve the removals of the taxi stand signage. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Vine Parking

Committee Member Anderson asked about the status of Vine Parking and when the changeover would take place. Committee Chair Ladd stated they had some issues which have now been resolved. Committee Member Randolph stated in the next few days he would start to generate work orders for this.

Committee Member Anderson stated she will get the press releases out.

7. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A voice mail from Jeff Wiseman was played. He stated he is a lifelong resident of the City of Kalamazoo. He stated he just experienced waiting for the train, watching detoured traffic, down by Harrison. People heading east are being directed north on Harrison, which was a mess. He asked why the traffic isn't directed down Pitcher to Gibson Street if they are headed east on Kings Highway. Right now, with Michigan Avenue closed off it is a mess.

Committee Chair Ladd stated the primary concern for the Traffic Board is parking regulations and parking ordinances.

In response to the call, Committee Chair Ladd stated there are a couple of issues being mentioned. There is the train detour and everyday train traffic, and there is bridge work being done on Michigan Avenue for the next 6–7 weeks by MDOT. Currently all the eastbound traffic is being detoured off of Michigan Avenue because it is closed in that direction and only allowing the westbound traffic. In a few weeks, it will be reversed, and the eastbound traffic will be allowed, and the westbound traffic will be detoured. Along Michigan Avenue, many blocks to the west, before entering the downtown area, there are a series of flashing detour signs for additional routes for traffic to take. Committee Member Randolph stated he will go out and observe the traffic while trains are present to see if anything more can be done.

9. NEXT MEETING

- Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021, electronic meeting at 2:00 P.M.
- Agenda items submitted to Karen Rutherford (rutherfordk@kalamazoo.org) by September 1, 2021.

10. ADJOURN

Committee Member Randolph, supported by Committee Member Anderson, moved to adjourn the Traffic Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Staff Liaison

Date: _____