



Minutes

Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting

May 28, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers Room 121
203 South Troy Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present: Carl Laubach
Clyde Esbri
Dan Godek
Joe Labataille
Sean Dunlop

Absent: Austin Schneider
Thomas Allen

Staff Present: Holly Donoghue
Jennifer Caudill

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Preamble

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Carl Laubach

Seconded by: Clyde Esbri

Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.

Motion Adopted

4. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Chairperson Godek opened the floor for those to speak.

Mr. Alan Ashley, Vice President of Royal Oak Manor spoke. He requested a right turn only sign for vehicles exiting out of parking garage for a new development 222 E Sixth - the Hazelton. He also would like a 4-way stop at the intersection of Sixth and Williams due to increased pedestrian traffic. He asked for something to

be done regarding the street lighting on Williams, as the tree canopy blocks lighting on street.

5. Rescheduled Items and Old Business

5.a Results of Previous Traffic Committee Recommendations

The city engineer informed the committee of the city commission resolutions from the previous traffic committee recommendations.

6. Agenda Items

6.a Request for 4-way stop at intersection of Woodlawn Avenue and Glendale Avenue

The city engineer presented the staff analysis and recommendation for the request. Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Moved by: Sean Dunlop

Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to accept staff recommendation to replace the north/south yield signs on Glendale Avenue at Woodlawn Avenue with stop signs (R1-1).

Ayes (5): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, and Sean Dunlop

Motion Adopted (5 to 0)

6.b Request for left turn signals on Crooks Road

The city engineer presented the staff analysis and recommendation for the request. Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Kathleen London of 5132 Thorncroft Court spoke regarding her request. Her son was in an accident when trying to turn east onto Normandy Road from southbound Crooks towards the student parking lot. A vehicle going northbound on Crooks ran the yellow light and hit her son's vehicle when he was making the turn. No one was critically injured but the trauma of that accident still lasts. She stated that more students are using non-motorized transportation, and vehicles are avoiding other north/south roads due to reduced lanes, so there is increased vehicle traffic on Crooks. She thinks these intersections deserve special consideration because they are within a school zone.

No one else came forward and Chairperson Godek closed public comment on this item.

Member Clyde Esbri spoke in favor of adding a left turn phase due to the unique situation around the high school and having young, less experienced drivers.

Members discussed extending southbound green signal time on Crooks for a few seconds, while all other legs are red, or possibly increase the all-red time at the intersection. This could be less costly and only requires a programming change.

The city engineer noted that adding a left turn signal would affect traffic progression through the corridor and could potentially lead to more traffic back-ups. Because the signals were not warranted based on the study results, she did not analyze progression impacts or prepare cost estimates.

Carl spoke in favor of staff recommendation, based on this being a typical intersection and this teaches new drivers typical behavior for an intersection.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri

Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Motion to table this item and have the city engineer gather more information on costs, and alternative programming/timing options for both intersections.

Motion Adopted

6.c Request for No Parking on one side of E. Parent Avenue

The city engineer presented the staff analysis and recommendation for the request. Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Caitlin Hall of 1222 Longfellow spoke against allowing parking on the north side, and would prefer the parking to be on the south side where the existing ADA parking spaces are already located. She is in favor of a future proposal going to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board to install nose-in parking on the north side of Lawson Park/south side of E. Parent.

Chris Ott of 1305 Anne spoke asking to table this item until the Park & Recreation Advisory Board completes their review of parking around Lawson Park. He is in agreement with Caitlin of protecting the mature trees and not allowing parking on the north side of the roadway.

No one else came forward and Chairperson Godek closed public comment on this item.

Engineer Donoghue gave information regarding the future Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Members Clyde Esbri and Sean Dunlop spoke about tabling the parking discussion until after parks meeting.

Chairperson Godek asked the petitioner and resident who spoke for their opinion on the proposed nose-in parking. They were both in favor.

Moved by: Carl Laubach

Seconded by: Clyde Esbri

Motion to install 'Dead End' and 'No Parking' signs at the dead end of E. Parent Avenue, east of Longfellow Avenue.

Ayes (4): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, and Sean Dunlop

Nays (1): Joe Labataille

Motion Adopted (4 to 1)

Moved by: Carl Laubach

Seconded by: Sean Dunlop

Motion to install 'No Parking' signs on the north side of E. Parent Avenue if the Park & Recreation advisory board approves nose-in parking at Lawson park; if nose-in parking is not approved, install 'No Parking' signs on the north side of E. Parent Avenue.

Ayes (2): Carl Laubach, and Sean Dunlop

Nays (3): Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, and Joe Labataille

Motion Failed (2 to 3)

Moved by: Clyde Esbri

Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to table parking restriction recommendations for E. Parent Avenue until Park & Recreation Advisory Board reviews nose-in parking for Lawson Park.

Motion Adopted

6.d Request for stop sign at alley off Normandy Road

The city engineer presented the staff analysis and recommendation for the request. Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Patrick McGee of 4524 Elmhurst spoke about site distance issues for cars exiting the alleyway onto Normandy, cannot see pedestrians due to fence and trees. The only crosswalk on Normandy to cross Woodward is on the south side of the roadway, so you have to walk past the alley egress.

No one else came forward and Chairperson Godek closed public comment on this item.

Members discussed if this is more of a code enforcement concern due to the fence adjacent to the alley near the sidewalk causing a site distance issue.

Moved by: Sean Dunlop
Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to accept the staff recommendation to deny the request for a Stop sign within the public alley at the intersection of Normandy Road and the public alley, located east of Woodward Avenue.

Motion Adopted

6.e Review and Amendment to Traffic Committee Bylaws

The city engineer presented the staff review and recommendations for updates to the by-laws. Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Members discussed if the police traffic safety officer who attends meetings should be included as an ex-officio member to clarify that he is not a voting member of the committee. Members also discussed if there was a need or reason to have an alternate on the committee.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri
Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Motion to accept the staff recommendation to amend the Royal Oak Traffic Committee Bylaws as outlined in the attached document, to add the police traffic safety representative as an ex-officio member, and to cancel the practice of appointing an alternate member to the committee.

Motion Adopted

6.f Reschedule July meeting

Members were agreeable to moving the July 2024 meeting to the following Tuesday, as no other present members had any conflicts with the new proposed date.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri
Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Motion to move the July Citizens Traffic Committee meeting to Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

Motion Adopted

7. Information Only Items

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Moved by: Joe Labataille

Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Adopted