

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
April 1, 2013-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Jason Novotny; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm; and John Ziegelmeier Jr.

Anyone who wishes to be notified when an item will be heard by the City Commission must provide their name and a telephone number or an e-mail address.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, March 18, 2013.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider establishing RESIDENT PARKING ONLY along a portion of the north side of Edgehill Road east of Louisiana Street.

Staff Report:

1. Parking has been a problem for residents along Edgehill Road for many years.
2. Students attending the University of Kansas park along both sides of the street while in class; as a result, it is very difficult for visitors to residences to park in the area.
3. In addition, some of the residences were allowed to develop with very little off-street parking.
4. City staff is recommending establishing RESIDENT PARKING ONLY for a distance of 100 feet to accommodate the residents on the south side of Edgehill Road east of Louisiana Street.
5. Permits would be issued to the two (2) property owners to allow visitors to park in this area.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of Sharon Drive.

Staff Report:

1. Sharon Drive is classified as a "local" street in a residential area and is paved 26 feet wide.
2. Parking is permitted along both sides of Sharon Drive.

ITEM NO. 4: Public comment.

ITEM NO. 5: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 6: Miscellaneous.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
April 1, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Jason Novotny; Chris Storm and John Ziegelmeyer, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tracy Russell

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department
Mark Thiel, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steven Watts, James Dunn, Sara Russell, Jackie Gibbs, Bethany Brayton, Heidi Gowen, Leo Leiker

Chair Dan Harden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, March 18, 2013.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 18, 2013; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0-1.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider establishing RESIDENT PARKING ONLY along a portion of the north side of Edgehill Road east of Louisiana Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted receipt of four (4) e-mails and a letter from the City Manager concerning this item, which were forwarded to each commission member; and Betty Alderson had called and indicated she was in support of the proposal.

Public Comment:

Steven Watts, 1649 Edgehill Road: Edgehill Road is now a public parking lot for the University of Kansas, members of Sigma Phi Epsilon and a sorority at 1700 Louisiana; therefore, there is nowhere for us to park; our houses were built prior to 1920 when parking wasn't an issue; this isn't a perfect solution, but, it is a reasonable compromise and it opens the concept of Resident Parking; it's one way that we can have people come over; my neighbor, Robert Brewer, wasn't able to come tonight, but, he is fully in support of this request; this is a project that the City Manager, Mr. Corliss, and I worked together on to come to a reasonable compromise; it would be very pleasant to have visitors to my house every once in a while without them having to park way, far away; the closer they can get to my house, the safer we will all feel; hopefully the Traffic Safety Commission will support this idea and also see it as an opportunity to begin the idea of a concept of permit parking to alleviate some of the parking issues that exist within the Oread Neighborhood.

Mark Thiel, Assistant Director of Public Works: The Public Works Department is in support of this proposal; although it is unique, this is a unique situation with no close parking available; this is an issue both during the day and at night.

James Dunn, 936 Kentucky Street: I would have been more comfortable if this issue had come to the Oread Neighborhood Association for comment instead of just the adjacent residents; I question whether these residents would be able to sell their permits to others; I am a landlord and have properties in town that doesn't have any off-street parking and if this will become a option to guarantee parking spaces for my tenants, I'm very interested in it; I also question whether these spaces would be subject to the current 48-hour parking limit.

Jackie Gibbs, 1625 Edgehill Road: We would like to have resident parking only also, we only have five (5) off-street parking spaces, but we have 20 residents and a capacity for 39 residents.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked why the proposal showed two (2) 50-foot zones instead of a single longer zone; Thiel advised that the adjacent property owners preferred two separate zones.

Commissioner Rothrock asked if pavement markings would be included as well as signs; Thiel advise that that was under consideration.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked what the distance between the two zones would be; Thiel advised that it would be approximately 50 feet, enough room for two vehicles.

Commissioner Novotny: I agree that this is a unique situation, but, is it unique enough that we won't have an onslaught of petitions for private parking in front of residences city-wide, and what do we do to prevent that.

Commissioner Rothrock: I see the ripple effect potential; even tonight we have two individuals that are interested in this for their situations.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: This has been hinted-at for many years; I think we need to look at this as an overall community, not just piece-meal; I'm not opposed, but, I think the problem is bigger than just here.

Commissioner Boley: Maybe this is the place to start.

Commissioner Rothrock: I'd like to see a more comprehensive approach since it's been talked about for so long; if we think this is a good idea, maybe this is where we start.

Commissioner Storm: I agree there is an issue in this area and the owners have worked with city staff to come-up with what seems to be a reasonable solution.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: If we approve this, I think it should be as a "test" for six (6) months to see if we get the results we intend; we need to make sure they can't sell the permits and that the 48-hour restriction applies; I also think there should only be one (1) long zone instead of two (2) short zones.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER STORM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A SINGLE 100 FOOT RESIDENT PARKING ONLY ZONE ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF EDGEHILL ROAD CENTERED BETWEEN 1647 & 1649 EDGEHILL ROAD FOR A SIX (6) MONTH TEST PERIOD; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of Sharon Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Bethany Brayton, 125 Sharon Drive: When you parking on both sides of the street, you have a ping-pong effect with traffic moving both directions; when there are gatherings, people park on both side of the street making travel in both directions difficult; part of my concern is emergency vehicles trying to get through in a timely manner; when it snowed, everyone was able to park in their driveway; I don't think it would cause an issue for residents; I did take some photos (attached) showing the situation.

Heidi Gowen, 110 N Sharon Drive: I've lived on Sharon Drive for over 10 years and I don't feel that parking on both sides is an issue except weekends and holidays; you may have to wait for opposing traffic to get by; I don't think it is a problem; I'm not aware of any incidents due to parking on both sides; removing the parking could increase the speed of traffic; having to navigate around cars is a natural traffic calming.

Leo Leiker, 316 Sharon Drive: I was the first resident on Sharon Drive; our block has no problem with the parking; I think people just need to take turns and get along; I hope that if it is approved, you can keep the 300 block out of it; I'm a firefighter and drive a fire truck down Sharon Drive and I never have a problem with it.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Devlin: The arguments against it make a lot of sense; with cars parked on both sides, it slows down the traffic, but doesn't inhibit emergency vehicles from getting where they need to go.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NO PARKING ALONG ONE SIDE OF SHARON DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 5:

Commission Items:

Commissioner Boley suggested that the timing of the traffic signal at 19th & Iowa may need to be adjusted during the construction project; Woosley advised that it was being watched and any necessary changes would be made.

ITEM NO. 6:

Miscellaneous:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, May 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

David E. Woosley, P.E.
Transportation/Traffic Engineer