

## TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Mike calls to order the regular meeting of the City of Marion Traffic Commission at ~2:00 PM Tuesday May 21, 2019 in the City Council Chambers Marion Municipal Building.

Roll Call:

Present:

Mike Graft

Chairman of Commission

Don Batchelor

City Council Representative

Tony Fox

Fire Department Representative

Tom Hunt

Legal Department Representative

Non-voting members:

Rhonda Pierson

Traffic Department Representative

Virgil Hartley

Secretary

Absent:

Sgt. David Gilbert

Police Department Representative

Sam Ramsey

City Plan Director

Next on the agenda was the approval of the last month(s) minutes, but as there weren't any meetings since January those were the minutes that were being approved.

Mike asked for a motion to accept the last month's minutes: Tony made the motion, Don seconded, all were in favor there were no against, motion passed, January's minutes were approved.

We went on to old business as Mr. Kyle Miller was in the audience, he was speaking on the S. 'D' & W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.'s sight distance problem. :

Kyle starts that he had lived at the intersection (NE corner) for ~25 years, his Mother-in-law lives there now, he has a son that lives in the same neighborhood. He explains that he has talked to Mike & Virgil, but didn't know about coming to the City Traffic Commission meetings. One of the accidents was when a driver ran the stop sign and was hit by a vehicle on W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. (the thru street). He explains several accidents that he has seen and been involved in the years he's lived there. He also says that when he lived there he has heard vehicles slamming on

their brakes. He adds that he doesn't know what the effects of winter would have on the cars coming up (westbound) the hill and Mike says that was /is a factor in which the Street Dept. would have to watch. Kyle adds that being a Firefighter he didn't want to see someone get killed at that intersection. Virgil says that when he was out there doing the field investigation (he took pictures) he didn't think the sight distance was much of an issue, but that Kyle was right about the speeding on W. 9<sup>TH</sup> Street. He adds that he was almost hit twice taking photos even wearing a safety vest- people just didn't care. Mike thanks Mr. Miller for his time and patience on this matter. Mike then asks for motion for a temporary installation of two STOP signs and two "STOP AHEAD" signs to be installed on W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.'s. Tony makes the motion, Don seconds, the vote is unanimous and there were no 'nays' motion passes. Mike then instructs Virgil to get with Phil on getting locates done for the signs.

Next is New Business: Item a: Walkway of Lights parade-Steve Wright and Rose Candena:

Steve explain that the reason he was here today before the Traffic Commission was to let 'us' know what the Walkway of Lights committee was looking at as far as the new parade route. He explains that the route for this year's parade will be changed from that of a couple of years. The new route will be determined in the following months. But it was established (preliminary) that it will be starting at the YMCA, south on Washington turning on a numbered street (possibly 5<sup>th</sup> St.) and going north on Adams back to the YMCA. Steve continues that this will also involve closing State Roads 18 East & West at Wash. and at Adams for a couple of hours (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm). And that was the reason to come before the T.C. as they needed to know who or how to contact INDOT to start or get their input. Steve the reason for this was to bring the parade back to the downtown area for the people and the businesses (as in the past). He also says that the parade will be a week after the official lighting of the Walkway Dec. 7th. Steve is telling the Commission members that the Mayor was on board with this (new route) and that they also have gone before the Commissioner's meeting but was unsure how to get the State Roads 18 closed (for approx. 2 hours). Mike responds that Steve or whoever needs to have on a letterhead (to INDOT) what the closing(s) will be for and the duration of the closing. He continues that a temporary stop at the affected intersections may not be approved and that we may also need to have signage to reroute traffic for those two hours or so and possibly show a traffic route for the 'detour.' Mike adds that dealing with INDOT can be painful as he has had some experience knows.

Steve adds that Rick Dillion sits on the board of the Walkway and does these things all the time and says that the City of Noblesville closes S.R. 32 for parades and that Gas City closes S.R. 22 for the same. This was in response to Mike saying that getting S.R. 18 E & W closed might be a quite undertaking. Steve again brings up about other cities/towns that can get State Roads closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, etc., but we can't (assuming he was talking about Organizations)? This again is one of the reasons the Walkway is at the Traffic Commission. And again Mike states that Rose or someone write a letter asking about the 'when, why & time' of the

proposed closing/shutdown and Mike adds that if INDOT didn't want to help out with the necessary signage the City would do it. Also we would do the revised traffic pattern, he continues that the main concern is with the semi-trucks i.e. rerouting them. Steve asks Mike that the wording for INDOT is "requesting" and Mike acknowledges that is correct. Mike cautions Steve in that we can't say "this is what we are going to do," but again the word is this is what we are requesting and what we would do if we can't get help from INDOT. Also Mike continues in that this is about the right time asking for this request as it might take a few months for INDOT to approve any closures, Steve agrees in that was why he (and Rose/Walkway of Lights) wanted to get on the T.C.'s Agenda and get the Commission's advice so soon. Mike and Steve talks about the timing of the parade and that it was good (probably for us) that it starts about 5:30 pm and runs to about 7:30 (but this time frame is not set in stone) pm on a Saturday evening/night when the impact to traffic won't be so bad. Mike also adds that it might be a good idea if the Walkway committee get all the downtown merchants' support that way INDOT can see that if this closure goes through it will not have a big impact on businesses. Steve said this had been discussed with Main Street Marion & the Downtown Roundtable and that they were good with this also. Mike again wants Steve to know that showing INDOT (and the other local Org.'s) that there will be little to no opposition the better to get an approval. Steve continues in that they are planning a lot of festivities, he assures the Commission that there wasn't any plan (as of right now) to have any food vendors on both State Roads (or at least on 3<sup>rd</sup> St./Courtyard).

Mike asks the Commission if there was anything that needed to be added to this, Tom replies that if the Walkway Committee gets with all the businesses and the Mayor's approval/backing as Mike suggested that would be great as far as letting INDOT know how much support they would have. Mike wanted to assure Steve and the Walkway Committee that as far as the Traffic Commission was concerned we would be part of their support to make this event happen. Steve then asks Mike if this will be included in the minutes of this meeting because the Commissioner's did take a vote on this matter for the record, Mike assured him it would. Rose confirms that the date will be December 7<sup>th</sup> and the time frame will be approximately 6:30 pm to about 8:30 pm.

Mike then asks the Commission to entertain a motion to approve the date, time and on the Walkway Commission to further idea to INDOT. Virgil does the roll call:

Mike Graft: Yes

Don Batchelor: Yes

Tony Fox: Yes

Tom Hunt: Yes

The vote was unanimous- no 'nay' votes, motion passes.

Mike then brings up the last meeting's agenda and one of items was the parking issue on N. Boots St. from Bradford to Goldthwaite St.'s. Virgil mentions that he has talked to Dave Homer

on this issue and that Dave would like the Marion Fire Department to look at this and give some feedback/input. Tony says he has driven down the street in his personal truck- a dually pickup and that it was pretty tight (he took some photos and showed Virgil). Mike mentions that he thought the Neighborhood Association had something to address this problem. Virgil wasn't sure on that, but said that when he went to the February 'Bend of the River (BotR)' Neighborhood Association meeting they brought this up. But nothing more was being said, so Virgil said that he didn't know what was going on further with this. Mike is asked about the parking on Washington by the ResCare vans (causing a sight-distance problem), he states that this an ongoing problem as they have had quite a few turnovers in management. When one (manager) leaves they fail to let the replacement know about the agreement they made w/the City (see T.C. minutes of several years ago). Again we are talking about the parking areas they have (and they have plenty) and they aren't using them. Rhonda and Mike come up with the old Permit Parking scheme that was used years ago (MGH, Thomson), Rhonda comments that some residents don't have any choice, but to park on the street(s) while ResCare employees have parking areas and not using them. Mike suggest that this could be a starting point to bring before the neighborhood association (BotR) to get their discussion/input. Now the permits will be for the area's residents, not for ResCare employees who may have to start parking in the areas they have. He continues in saying that now we will have to talk to the Police department because this will become a parking issue (Parking Enforcement?) and monitor the area. Mike adds that we all know that there is an issue with the parking around that area and that maybe we can get some input from the neighborhood association. Tony adds that he would gladly to come to a neighborhood association meeting to discuss this matter with the members, Mike & Virgil both thought that would be a great idea as they are always looking for MPD or MFD officers to come and talk to the neighborhood association members (Virgil says that he will get w/Tony to confirm a date). Mike agrees. This was tabled for the next meeting.

Mike then goes to the MGH crosswalks/speeding issue (there wasn't anyone from MGH there) and asks Don if he's heard anything more on this Don answers that he hasn't, Tony asks if anyone has talked to Ted Tobias on this and the answer that Mike had. He says that no one has ever come to him (Ted) on this issue and no one with the City has either since Pat Kolb/Admin. Dir. Protective Services/E.M. came to the February 2019 meeting. Someone asks if they (MGH) thinks this is an ongoing problem and Mike responds that MGH does think so. The crosswalk in question is the 'middle' one between the intersection of Cherry & Jeffras and the one at the ACC/entrance of MGH (near the parking garage). It appears that the 'middle' crosswalk is too close to the one at the intersection. When the green light is on for Wabash vehicles proceed through and have to stop for pedestrian in the walk causing the vehicles to stop unexpectedly and causing a chain reaction. Mike suggest that this design needs to be looked at and maybe some comments given to the Engineer's that designed it and with MGH. He continues about that he had read the past minutes and that promises that were made

haven't happened- taking the light out (as Cherry is vacated) and maybe a 3-Way Stop installed. Rhonda adds that the traffic signal was install for the emergency vehicles at the Emergency Room entrance. Mike continues that the upkeep of the crosswalks (even the illumination) aren't as promised. Tom is questioning the reasoning for that location of the crosswalk and it was said that MGH wanted it there for pedestrians & patients coming from the parking lot. The discussion is that the pedestrians/patents should use the crosswalks at the intersect/Traffic Signals. Mike's suggestion to the traffic Commission is that the Engineering Department write a letter to say that the original idea of erecting a fence so that the pedestrians/patients, force them to use the existing crosswalks (at Cherry & Jeffras) and to make the area safer for drivers/pedestrians. Again someone mentions that the best results would be to eliminate that crosswalk location, build the fence and that would make that area a lot safer. Some mentions that (if MGH contest this) that this is a hazard and that the City could do something about it. Tom asks it is only the patrons/patients that using this location, the employees are using the crosswalks at the intersections- this was answered as "correct." Mike adds that drivers are seeing the one at the intersections and are not expecting another a few feet away. Tom gave an example of him turning the corner of Wabash Ave. & Cherry St. and a panel truck was obstructing the secondary crosswalk, though Tom did see a pedestrian behind the truck, but it could have been worst.

NOTE: It is State Law that you have to stop/give right-of-way to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

So when you stop for pedestrians at the light/intersection (though they should cross with the light) drivers have to stop again in a short distance and cause a rear end accident. Mike then asks to entertain a motion to have the Engineering Department to write a letter stating that this design is not working out and that we will need further contact with MGH and their Engineers Tom makes the Motion Don 2 second, mike asks for a vote it w unanimous, motion passes.

Since there wasn't any other new business on the agenda to address or any Public Address Mike asks if there was anything that needed to be discussed.

Don asks the Chair that he has something he wanted to discuss: He says that he has talked to Ronnie Drake about a complaint about speeding on S. Boots St. He says that there isn't any stops from W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street to W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. This is so as Virgil made the field observation (under the direction of Mike Graft). He also thought it was posted as a 25 MPH zone. Mr. Drake is concerned as when children are play basketball at the corner of S. Boots & W. 13<sup>th</sup> St.'s someone could get hit. This was tabled until more information can be had and will be put on next meeting's agenda.

Having no further business Mike asks for a motion to end the meeting, Don Motions, Tony seconds meeting is dismissed.