

La Porte City Traffic Commission

The March meeting of the La Porte City Traffic Commission was held at the conference room of the City Police Station on March 1, 2022. The following members were present:

Karyl Feikes – Chairperson	Andy Snyder – Secretary	Sara Ford
Paul Brettin	Mike Frazee	Jeff Batchelor
Rip Ludlow	Laura Konieczny	Paul Vincent

The following items summarize the meeting:

1. The minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting were approved. It was noted that Jim Sims spelling of his last name in item #2 should be corrected with only one “m”. Motion by Laura Konieczny and seconded by Mike Frazee.
2. **Public Comment** - Tim Franke attended the meeting with Curt Lofton of 708 Weller Ave. They wanted to discuss the concerns of restricted parking on Pennsylvania Ave due to a lawn care company’s snow equipment being parked at its intersection with Weller during the winter months and lawn care trucks and trailers from the same company during the spring, summer and fall months. Tim indicated that a draft ordinance had been prepared for City Council’s consideration. He indicated the ordinance might help alleviate this problem, but he also felt it may need further review since in its current form it didn’t distinguish between commercial and residential vehicles. Elizabeth Wainscot of 705 Weller Ave, owner of Bull Dog Lawn Care, also attended the meeting. She stated that she was unaware this was creating a hazard for emergency vehicles as stated in earlier Traffic Commission meeting minutes. She also felt the number of vehicles at the location was not excessive but indicated her and her husband, the co-owner of the business, were trying to find alternative sites for the storage of equipment. The Commission decided to take the prepared ordinance under consideration and discuss it further at the April meeting. Karyl indicated she would forward it to the rest of the Commission.
3. Sara Ford indicated that discussions between INDOT and Nick Minich were proceeding. She stated a meeting would be scheduled soon and she would have more to report next month. The items for discussion include the installation of “Do Not Enter” signs on the back side of the Kingsbury Ave. stop signs at its intersection with Indiana Ave., options for mobile digital speed monitoring signs on Indiana Avenue to help reduce speeding and plans for turn lanes at Indiana Avenue and Boyd Boulevard to accommodate the increased bus garage traffic. Also the possibility of a turn lane from Marquette to Pine Lake Ave to help alleviate increased traffic with upcoming new businesses in the area.
4. The placement of a stop sign on E Street at the intersection with 8th Street has been delayed due to a NIPSCO natural gas line directly beneath the sign placement. This should be remedied in the next few weeks, which will allow for the installation.
5. Jeff Batchelor and Mike Frazee presented the Commission with proposed language changes in existing ordinances to better define Emergency Snow Route parking restrictions and eliminate the 1:00 AM – 6:00 AM parking restrictions. The first proposed change defines a Snow Emergency as anytime the City receives 2 or more inches of snow in a 24 hour period. The second eliminates 1:00 AM – 6:00 AM parking restrictions in the downtown area and replaces it with 24 hour parking plan beginning at 6:00 PM each day. It further allows that parking will be permitted on even numbered

- days of the month on the side of the street with even numbered addresses and parking will be permitted on the odd numbered days of the month on the side of the street with odd numbered addresses. A motion was made by Mike Frazee and seconded by Paul Brettin to forward both of these ordinance changes to the City Council with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.
6. The recommendation to the City Council to lower the speed limit to 20 MPH on State St. from 1st St. to Tyler St. (in front of the new hospital) had not yet been considered by the Council. Andy will follow up with Nick Otis.
 7. The Commission will continue to monitor the parking situation and the dangers of pedestrians crossing roadway in the area of The Dunes Event Center on Clear Lake Blvd.
 8. Craig Phillips, Director of Community Development and Planning, attended the meeting to share a proposal from Walker Consultants regarding a parking study for the City of La Porte. Several suggestions were made to add other stakeholders to the committee. Craig agreed and indicated he will contact the individuals and include them in the process. He will keep the Commission informed of their progress.
 9. Jeff Batchelor presented ordinances pertaining to parking restrictions on Michigan Ave, north of Harrison Street. This was in response to a request from D. Drummond Osborn and clarification regarding signage in the area. According to the ordinances, this area is 2 Hour Restricted Parking. Mike indicated he will post more signage to clarify that spaces in this block are 2 Hour Restricted.
 10. Andy Snyder presented a concern from the owners of the building located at the northwest corner of A St. & 18th St. They have been experiencing vehicles using their parking lot to pick up students from the La Porte Middle School after school release. This has become problematic for the businesses located in the complex and in some cases dangerous to their customers. Since this is private property the Commission is not able to take any type of action, however it was suggested that "No Trespassing" signs be posted and if people violate this to have the owners call the police.
 11. Karyl Feikes brought up a concern that had been forwarded to her by a citizen. The timing of the traffic signal at the intersection of Heinz, Scott & E. Lincolnway seems to cycle very quickly on the side streets not allowing traffic to safely proceed before changing. Sara indicated since this is an INDOT signal that any concerns would need to be submitted through their request line. She provided the appropriate phone number and Karyl indicated she would forward it to the citizen.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Paul Vincent and seconded by Rip Ludlow.

Due to several conflicts with schedules of the Commission members, it was decided to move the April Traffic Commission to one week later. It will be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in the conference room of the City Police Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Snyder, Secretary