

La Porte City Traffic Commission

The May meeting of the La Porte City Traffic Commission was held on May 14th, 2019 in the conference room of the City Police Station.

The following members were present:

Karyl Feikes- Chairperson
Tom Owens
Rip Ludlow

Ron McAtee
Miles Fettinger
Mike Frazee

The following items summarize the meeting:

1. The minutes of the April 4th, 2019 meeting were approved. Motion by Ron McAtee and seconded by Tom Owens.
2. Mr. Vans, 705 Plain St., attended the meeting to request a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Plain St. and Henry St. He is also concerned about there being no sidewalk on parts of Henry St. The commission advised him they would look into the issues and discuss them further at the next meeting. Tom Owen will also have a speed study done in that area.
3. Timothy Russell, 814 Ohio St., also attended the meeting to concur with Mr. Vans concerns.
4. Mr. Johnathan Davidson, 104 1st Street requested all signage on 1st St. be spelled out in alphabetical letter form as opposed to numerical form. He indicated he has had difficulty obtaining mail due to this designation. Karyl Feikes will get in contact with City Attorney, Nick Otis to inquire if this change would affect all number streets. We will discuss further at the next meeting.
5. Mark Schreiber, Superintendent of the Park Department, requested permission to place additional signage on Waverly Road and Truesdell Avenue. The signage would be in the form of digital speed signs. On agenda until signs are up.
6. The changes to Clear Lake Blvd. have not yet been completed to improve the ability of fire trucks and street department trucks to safely traverse the new roadway. NIPSCO has moved the utility pole on Kosciusko St. and the asphalt radiion on West St. and Furnace St. has been extended. Some changes have been completed, but this item will remain on the agenda until everything has been completed.
7. A pedestrian crosswalk has been requested on Happiness Way. Commission discussed and thought that there was already a designated crosswalk at the requested location, so it was approved to be repainted. No motions made. Will revisit if motions are needed for official approval.
8. Diana Richey complained through Miles Fettinger that cars are speeding to the Commons and putting wheel chair patients enjoying the outside weather at risk of being hit. Tom Owens will have a speed study done in that area and we will discuss the findings at our next meeting.
9. A citizen complained that she was pulled over after not seeing a stop sign at the corner of Jefferson Ave. and Michigan Ave. Mike Frazee said that the signs were a little bent due to missing bolts, but that the bolts had been replaced and the signs should be good.

10. Josh Westfall, 32 Keston Elm Dr., is requesting that the speed limit through his neighborhood be reduced to 15 mph due to children in the area. It is currently 25 mph. He would also like "Children at Play" signs to be installed as there are several children that are now living there. Tom Owens will have a speed study done and we will review the findings at our next meeting. Miles Fettinger made a motion to approve installation of the "Children at Play" signs, seconded by Ron McAtee and unanimously approved.
11. A request was made to remove the 2-15 minute parking signs on Jefferson Ave. in front of the former Temple building due to limited 2 hour parking available downtown. After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Owens to remove one of the signs as we don't know what will be occupying that building in the future. Motion was seconded by Miles Fettinger. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Discussion was also held regarding semi/car traffic on Lincolnway due to the overpass construction. Vehicles are trying to get through the intersections and are then getting caught by the light thus blocking traffic. Tom Owens reported that they ticket when they see violations, but they do not have the staffing to be on constant watch of the area. The State is responsible for the traffic patterns and would need to take the initiative to find a solution to this.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ron McAtee and seconded by Tom Owens. The next meeting of the Traffic Commission will be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 4th, 2019 in the conference room of the City Police Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyl Feikes-Chairperson