

Traffic Safety Advisory Board

June 29, 2010 6:00 pm

Council Chambers

In attendance: Mike Tokai, Larry Schillinger, Dave Blackmar, Don Bandkau, Tom Wightman, Linda Basista.

One guest in audience and Mike O'Leary – Lindhout Assoc.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mike Tokai called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- 2. Call to Public:** No response

Jim Bohn requested through Tom Wightman that he be formally excused from the meeting.

- 3. Review of proposed parking on North Street near West Street:** Mike O'Leary made presentation of proposed improvements to this area that included "back in angle" parking. The proposal included concrete banding, North St. a raised cross walk on North St., trees, curb bump outs and, if funding permits, a walkway over the creek to a park area which is part of the DDA Master Plan. These improvements are grant funded as part of a re-development in the area including a new restaurant. There are 7 proposed back in spaces on North St. near Champs. This would increase the current parking in this area by 3 spaces. O'Leary stressed the safety benefits to this type of parking which include being able to load vehicles from the curb, not having the driver's door open into traffic and having passengers directed back to the curb because of the way the car door open. Concern was expressed that the rear bumpers of parked vehicles would hang over the sidewalk and impede pedestrian traffic. O'Leary said that the sidewalk would be widened in this area. It was noted that the improvements on West St. would cause the loss of 2 parking spaces. There would be parallel parking on North St. west of Grand River. Dave Blackmar expresses concern regarding snow removal in the area with the curb bump-outs. This is the only area in the city that would have this type of parking. O'Leary stated that signage would be placed in the area which would include a diagram of how to park. There is parking of this type in Marquette. Tom Wightman stated that Jim Bohn had asked to relay that he did not have an objection to the proposed parking. There was much discussion regarding the confusion that this new type of parking could cause. Linda Basista expressed concern regarding the narrowing of North Street caused by the curb bump-outs. She also stated that traffic engineers as a group are not normally supportive of this type of parking. It was decided that the plans should be forwarded to the Planning Commission with reservations that the Back-In parking may cause confusion in the area.

- 4. Update from City Engineer regarding traffic issues at Third Street Round-a-bout:** There is concern about the speed of traffic coming from the west. Since 2005 there have been 22 accidents at this intersection: 3 EB colliding with a car in the circle, 4 WB colliding with a car in the circle, 1 SB colliding with a car in the circle, 9 rear-end collisions with 7 outside the circle (2 of those EB) and 2 inside the circle, and 5 miscellaneous or cause not indicated. When coming from the east drivers have slowed going through town and for the RR. The drivers coming from the west do not have the same breaks in their traffic pattern. Linda was looking for cost effective ways to slow the drivers down. She suggested placing deflectors in the pavement. Blackmar stated that these cause a problem for the snow plows. It was recommended that this topic receive further study including the possibility of signage and painting. Blackmar will look further into the possibility of installing raised pavement markers.
5. Other issues and business: None.
6. Meeting adjourned at 7:28.