

RYAN GRIM
Chief of Police



300 W BARAGA AVENUE
MARQUETTE MI49855
(906)228-0400

GREG KINONEN
Captain of Detectives

JAMES FINKBEINER
Captain of Patrol Operations

City of Marquette
TPAC Traffic/Parking Advisory Committee
Minutes 1/16/2024

I. Meeting located in Conference Room # 103, lower level of Marquette City Hall

II. Meeting Called to Order:

5:00 PM

III. Roll Call:

Present: Orville Dishno, Gerald Kujawa, Barb Owdziej, Colleen Roberts
Others Present: Police Liaison Captain Finkbeiner, Cindy S, city resident; Sally Davis, Mayor; Kellen Wessels, City Engineer

IV: Approval of Agenda:

Approval of the agenda was motioned by Roberts; seconded by Orville. Approved.

V: Approval of minutes:

Minutes submitted by: Jerry Kujawa

Roberts noted that there was an error in the previous month's minutes. A comment referring to traffic blocking the intersection at "Washington Street and Lincoln" should be corrected to the intersection at "Bluff Street and Lincoln."

With this change, the approval of the previous meeting minutes was motioned by Roberts, seconded by Kujawa. Approved.

VI: Public Comments:

1. Cindy a 19-year resident of 726 W. Magnetic Street commented on a few issues she has seen on her street including speeding, drivers texting and driving, and sidewalks not cleared. She noted that there are children living on the block, making these conditions especially dangerous.

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2. Sally Davis, mayor of Marquette, and city commissioner for the last 4 years attended the meeting. She encouraged the advisory committee to make recommendations and motions to the city commission based on public comments.

VII: New Business:

1. City Engineer, Kellen Wessels, spoke with the Committee regarding:
 - A. Traffic studies and how they are conducted – what processes are used to help determine changes to current signals, signs, speeds, etc. and what are “warrants” and how they are used to make decisions.

Wessels explained the decisions are made based on the last comprehensive study on Marquette’s streets that was conducted in 2017. Specific intersections can be reevaluated on a case by case basis as needed. Wessels explained that decisions are based on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. This manual is used as a guide for making decisions for traffic issues.

Owdziej asked about the cost of conducting a traffic study or conducting a traffic count. Wessels stated that the committee could make motion to recommend a specific intersection or street be studied.

Dishno asked what information traffic counters provide. Wessels answered that they give the number of cars passing, their speed, time, and size. Two traffic counters might be used to determine a car’s direction of travel.

Roberts asked if pedestrians were included in these traffic studies. Wessels answered that they are not. The Michigan Uniform Traffic Manual is used for recommendations regarding pedestrians.

Owdziej asked if the Manual was outdated and did not account for non-motorized forms of transportation. Wessels agreed that the Manual was car centric but stated that the manual is a tool and not legally binding. There is room for making judgement.

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Roberts asked about the duration of traffic studies. Wessels answered that they last a week.

Owdziej asked if the studies took into account seasonal changes in traffic. Wessels stated that the studies are conducted when traffic is thought to be at its busiest.

Kujawa asked if the engineering department had tools to slow traffic. Wessels stated that narrowing the road or creating bump outs would slow traffic, but there would need to be coordination with public works for snow removal.

Owdziej asked if stop signs could be installed to slow traffic. Wessels stated he was hesitant to use stop signs as a traffic calming device.

Roberts asked about the effectiveness of traffic signs (such as children crossing signs). Wessels was hesitant to say how effective they were in slowing traffic.

Owdziej asked if the Manual made distinctions for through streets vs. residential streets. Wessels stated that there was no distinction.

B. Timing of traffic signals – how it is determined and how it is changed (when appropriate)

Wessels explained that the timing of lights is based on the 2017 study. There are sensors on some intersections. There is hesitation to change the timing of lights as it could lead to unforeseen complications at other locations on the street.

C. Lakeshore Blvd. question on why there is no “stop” sign at the corner of Lakeshore/E. Washington street at the crosswalk

Roberts advocated for the placement of a stop sign on Southbound Lakeshore Boulevard and Washington, citing a lack of sight for drivers turning from Washington Street. She also cited future developments on Lakeshore Boulevard that would increase traffic.

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Wessels stated that after the development was in place, the city could look at the intersection to see if a stop sign was warranted.

- D. Wright Street near Industrial and the crossing for pedestrians and bikes; pedestrian crossing signal possibility/feasibility.

Owdziej asked about the installation of a High-Intensity Activation Crosswalk (HAWK signal) where the city-multi use path crosses Wright Street.

Wessels stated that this signal would be legal in Michigan and the warrants would likely support this crossing. In a study conducted in the fall, there were about 1500 cars passing at that location. The city is looking at rerouting the path to the east to avoid trucks turning from Oberstar.

2. Presque Isle Avenue / College Avenue Traffic Signal Changes

Captain Finkbeiner stated that this change was in process.

3. 2024 Traffic & Parking Committee Meeting Schedule

There were no issues brought up by the committee members

4. MDOT Complete Street Survey

Captain Finkbeiner announced MDOT was conducting a survey for public input on the future of Complete Streets.

Owdziej asked if the survey could be put on the city's website. Captain Finkbeiner stated he would check, and that he could put the survey up on the Police Facebook page.

5. TPAC City Commission Presentation Work Session

To be discussed at the February meeting.

IX: Committee Comments:

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Kujawa asked Captain Finkbeiner if the Marquette police patrolled for texting and driving. Captain Finkbeiner stated that the police do, but it is hard to verify that drivers are texting and driving.

Dishno and Roberts thanked Wessels for attending the meeting and providing information.

Owdziej commented that complete streets help encourage small business development.

X: Motion to Adjourn:

Owdziej motioned to adjourn; concurred by committee

XI: Time of Adjournment:

6:30

Approved by Chairperson: _____
Date: 2-20-24

Accepted by Committee Liaison: _____
Date: 2-20-24