

City of Marquette
TPAC Traffic/Parking Advisory Committee
Minutes 02/21/2023

I. Meeting located in the Marquette City Hall Conference Room #103

II. Meeting Called to Order: 5:00 pm

III. Roll Call:

Present: Barbara Owdziej, Orville Dishno, Jodi Lanciani, Alan Sherbinow,
Richard Johnson

Absent: Jim Breitenbach

Others Present: Captain James Finkbeiner, Marquette Police Liaison

IV: Approval of Agenda for 02/21/2023 with addition of discussion about Safe Routes to School:

Motion to approve the agenda with addition was made by Jodi Lanciani,
seconded by Richard Johnson.

Approved unanimously 5-0.

V: Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from 01/17/2023 by Jodi Lanciani, seconded
by Richard Johnson. Approved unanimously 5-0

VI: Public Comments: None.

VII: Old Business:

1. The North 3rd/Arch St. parking problem near Superior Blue Link has had no further issues. The recent removal of the snowbanks on 3rd Street has made the entrance to the business' driveway clear and people are no longer parking too close to the curb. Orville recommends we table the discussion of this location for now. He suggested a "no parking here to corner" sign at the entrance to Blue Link if this becomes a problem in the future. Committee members agreed.
2. Engine Braking – Marquette currently does not have an ordinance on engine braking. Captain Finkbeiner reported that Escanaba has an engine braking ordinance and he has requested a copy of this. He also received a copy of the engine braking ordinance that Republic has in place. There have been no further complaints about engine braking in Marquette, particularly on Wright St., but we now have some examples of ordinances should we need to pursue this in the future.

3. Private Property Parking in the winter and the fees for violation – In general, Captain Finkbeiner says he does not get a lot of requests for ticketing private property for parking violations. The property must have “private parking” signs for police to ticket. Property owners can choose to have cars towed as well. The committee discussed and agreed that raising the \$25 private parking violation ticket fee was not necessary at this time.
4. The Tierny St. parking issue was briefly discussed. Bothwell Middle School buses have recently started waiting 3 extra minutes before departing from the parking lot and this seems to have greatly helped the traffic congestion caused by parents picking up and busses leaving the area at the same time.

VIII: New Business

1. Traffic & Parking Committee Schedule: The committee finalized the time for the meeting to be at 4 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.
2. City Commission Meeting Presentation – It was proposed to move the TPAC presentation to July 31, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Barb made a motion to approve this date, Orville seconded, and this was approved unanimously 5- 0.
3. Pine St./Lakeshore Blvd Parking/Pedestrian Problem – Parking on Pine St. affects visibility of pedestrian crossing and narrows the road. Many people park on Pine St. to access the nearby Lakeshore Blvd bike paths and the beach. There is no parking on Lakeshore Blvd near this area. Captain Finkbeiner suggested possibly limiting parking to the North Side of Pine St. Barb suggested signs to alert northbound traffic on Lakeshore of the Pine St. to beach crossing area. Barb also discussed how the bike/walking path along Pine St. is not continuous and encourages people to walk in the road. Orville recommended we look closer at this issue when the snow melts and we can better visualize the problem and potential solutions.
4. Sheriff’s Department Parking Problems – Currently there are handicapped spaces near the sheriff department and only 2 or 3 spots for their police vehicles. They often need more spaces. They are requesting the handicapped spaces be moved further east on the road to allow them to have those spaces. Jodi and Captain Finkbeiner brought up the fact that there is usually plenty of parking in that area unless there is a jury hearing. Orville made a motion to move the 2 handicapped spots down into the paid parking area, Al seconded, and this was approved unanimously 5-0. Captain Finkbeiner will look into the next steps to accomplish this.
5. Review of Previously Identified Problem Areas for the Committee – The list of issues that we have been discussing was not reviewed at this meeting.

6. Safe Routes to School Program – Barb discussed that this is a federal government program to help make non-motorized routes to school, to reduce bussing traffic and to encourage people to walk to school. Currently only Gravearet and Bothwell are enrolled in this program. The committee discussed there might be lack of staff to work on this at the schools and/or the applicable grants might require matching funds that the schools could not afford. Jodi mentioned that walking to school in our climate is not a good option for younger children due to the lack of daylight and the extreme cold – even if the routes were safer. Barb asked if she could speak to the schools about enrolling in this program. Captain Finkbeiner suggested that she could do that as a citizen.

IX: Committee Comments:

Al – Remarked that Domino’s Pizza drivers use the hospital route to speed through to their deliveries.

Orville – Asked if it would be necessary to review the 2022 minutes for the presentation to the city. Captain Finkbeiner said that the TPAC meetings were sparse in 2022 and the presentation can focus on what the current members are working towards. Orville also asked that the time and location change of our meeting be made public, and Captain Finkbeiner said that this will be posted.

Richard – His neighbors asked that he bring up the speeding on Pine St. down the hill towards Hewitt St. Captain Finkbeiner said he is aware of the issue and will monitor.

Barb – Mentioned that there is also speeding down by the ski hill and on East Fair. Captain Finkbeiner said that it is unlikely that the state will change the speed limit near the ski hill but he does continue to bring that issue up when he can. He said he will further monitor the East Fair Ave. speeding particularly on weekend mornings when Barb said it appears people are in a hurry to get to the ice rink.

Jodi – Clarified that she supports the Safe Route to Schools as a funding mechanism to improve the routes that kids walk to schools, especially for those who live close enough that busses are not an option. She does not see the practicality of expanding walking options further distances from schools in our climate.

- X: Public Comment – Doug Garrison mentioned that 4 city committee meetings meet on Tuesdays in the late afternoon. He commented that the Pine St./Lakeshore Blvd area is a place where people really like to walk and it would be preferable to make it more accessible. He questioned who owned the land near there and whether a small parking lot could be made. He asked what committee oversees the Presque Isle traffic and parking, and Orville said there is a separate Presque Isle Committee for those issues.

XI: Time of Adjournment: 6:45 pm

Approved by Chairwoman: _____

Date: 3-21-23

Accepted by Committee Liaison: _____

Date: 3/21/23

Wolke
James Trill