

****MINUTES****
MAYOR'S ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

The Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission met at the James J. Eagan Center, Room 2, on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., with Zach Schneider presiding.

Members present were: Donna Smith-Pupillo (Ward 1), Greg Keil (Ward 4), Teri Reiter (Ward 5), Pete Fischer (Ward 6), and Zach Schneider (Ward 7). Also present was MaryAnn Fitzpatrick, Recording Clerk. Don Adams (Ward 2), Mike Mott (Ward 3), Allen Bluiett (Ward 8), and the Police Department were absent. Kim Redden (Ward 9) and Jason Timme, Street Department, were excused. Also in attendance was resident Timothy Reynolds, 929 rue St. Denis, and Councilman Patrick Mulcahy (Ward 6).

A quorum being present the chair declared the Traffic Commission was in session for the transaction of business.

Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved as published. The April 14, 2020 meeting was canceled due to the lack of Agenda items, and the May 12, 2020 and June 9, 2020 meetings were canceled due to the distancing requirements for the Corona virus pandemic.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

All old business was addressed and dropped from the Agenda at March 10, 2020 meeting.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

**03/20 REQUEST TO PLACE STOP SIGNS AT EVERY INTERSECTION ON
RUE ST. DENIS FROM NEW FLORISSANT ROAD TO ST. FERDINAND
Postponed until August 11, 2020
Ward 6**

Request was made to place stop signs at every intersection on Rue St. Denis from New Florissant Road to St. Ferdinand. Zach Schneider read a letter from Mr. Reynolds that was addressed to the Traffic Commission dated July 14, 2020 (copy of letter attached). Zach Schneider said a four-way stop at every intersection is not going to happen. It was stated that several of these intersections have been brought before the Traffic Commission before and have been denied since they do not meet the criteria of the stop sign warrant. Tim Reynolds said cars speed down St. Denis at 40 to 50 m.p.h. and you can hear screeching brakes at all hours of the day and night. He said maybe that is excessive but they do fly up and down the street. Pete Fischer asked Mr. Reynolds if there was a particular time of day that seems to be worse than others. Mr. Reynolds told him it is worse during morning and evening rush hours. He said St. Denis is a cut-thru from New Florissant Road to St. Ferdinand. He said there are a lot of kids around there and several of the residents use golf carts to get around Old Town. Zach Schneider said that if you put more stop signs on St. Denis you are going to open a Pandora's Box. The traffic will be pushed onto surrounding streets, and then when they see the new stop signs on St. Denis they will all want more stops signs too. Mr. Reynolds said St. Denis carries all the traffic because some of the surrounding streets don't go all the way through. Zach Schneider said he

counted the stop signs on St. Catherine, St. Denis, St. Louis, and St. Francois. They all have four stop signs. St. Antoine has three stop signs, but it doesn't go all the way through. Mr. Reynolds said Mr. Schneider is correct, but St. Denis carries all the traffic. Zach Schneider said if he would recommend adding a stop sign, it would be at Boone. There was much discussion about sight obstructions at Boone. Mr. Reynolds said there are several trees close to the street and some of the houses sit very close to the edge of the street. He asked if there were any other suggestions to slow down the traffic. He was told that speeding is a problem on every street in the City. It was stated that when the protesters are out on N. Hwy 67, the problem is worse. Everyone is looking for ways to get around that and the problem is everyone is in a hurry to either get there or get out of there. They just ignore all the stop signs. Teri Reiter said that when you have too many stop signs, and there are too many in Old Town, then people have a tendency to run all of them. She said she has a relative that lives off of Lafayette, and when they are sitting in the yard they can see the traffic and no one stops. They just go right through the stop signs. It was also stated that it's been proven that stop signs don't eliminate speeding. People stop for the stop sign and then speed up to make up for the time they spend stopping. They then speed to the next stop sign and do it again. Pete Fischer said but they have to slow down for the stop sign.

Unfortunately, not everyone stops for the stop signs. Teri Reiter said she was amazed at how many cars do not stop at the stop signs. They just go right through like there is no sign there. It was stated that there are digital speed limit signs on St. Denis. Mr. Reynolds said the police told him those signs capture data. He said he doesn't know how true that is, but was told that was correct. Those signs do capture data. It tells the police how many cars go through there and at what speeds. They may even record the time of day. Mr. Reynolds said the police have also run

radar up there, but no one is going to speed when they see a cop car parked there. Mr. Reynolds then asked about speed bumps. He was told the City won't use speed bumps. The Fire Department doesn't like them because it could be very dangerous for a person riding in the back of an ambulance if the ambulance hit one of those rushing a person to a hospital. It is also not good for the fire trucks and could damage our snow plows. Donna Smith-Pupillo said if you were in the back of that ambulance and they hit a speed bump, you would go flying. It was stated that it could also mess with some of the equipment the paramedics were using trying to save someone. Zach Schneider suggested instead of using speed bumps, what about speed dips. Instead of going up over a hump, you would just dip down. You would have to slow down for that so you wouldn't damage the front of your car. It was suggested that since there are digital speed limit signs on St. Denis already, let's put this off until next month and see what kind of data the police can get from those signs. They could also give us a count to see how many tickets have been written and if there have been any reports of accidents in the last few years.

Motion was made by Donna Smith-Pupillo to postpone this item until next month so we can make a better decision when we have more information from the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Pete Fischer. On the roll call the commission voted: Donna Smith-Pupillo – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, and Zach Schneider – yes. Motion carried. Item 03/20 was postponed until August 11, 2020.

**04/20 REQUEST TO RESTRICT PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREET
ON RISSANT DRIVE
Approved
Ward 6**

Request was made to restrict parking on one side of the street on Rissant Drive.

Zach Schneider read the e-mail from Councilman Henke. It was stated that this is a narrow street and people park on both sides. It makes it difficult for vehicles to navigate through there, especially things like the trash truck. A fire truck or an ambulance probably could not get through there. Pete Fischer and Greg Keil said they had both been by there at different times and didn't see too many cars parked there, but did say the street is very narrow there. It was stated that there is no parking on one side of the street on Florval and St. Celeste which are at each end of Rissant. Teri Reiter asked why the residents just don't park in their driveways since the street is so narrow. Zach Schneider said there is no parking on the right side of Florval and on the right side of St. Celeste. Since these three streets kind of make like a "U" shape, it would make sense to make the right side of Rissant no parking also. It would make it all consistent.

Motion was made by Zach Schneider to make a recommendation to place no parking signs on the north side of the street along Rissant Drive since it is so narrow, and it would also be consistent with St. Celeste and Florval. Motion was seconded by Teri Reiter. On the roll call the commission voted: Donna Smith-Pupillo – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, and Zach Schneider – yes. Motion carried. Item 04/20 was dropped from the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS:

There were no miscellaneous items brought before the Traffic Commission this evening.

Next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

No other items were brought before the Commission this evening. The meeting was adjourned.

For the Chairman
Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission

MaryAnn Fitzpatrick
Recording Clerk