



## **Traffic Commission**

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

### **CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION April 8, 2015**

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, Chairwoman Carol Wofsey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Chairwoman Wofsey, the following members of the commission were present:

- Curtis Tunstall
- Robert Warbin
- Jeff Hales
- Jackie Womack
- Eva Creer
- Mark Barnes

Also in attendance:

- Councilmember Stephen Kraft
- City Engineer, Sinan Alpaslan P.E.
- Police Department Representative P.O. Shaun Margul
- Public Works and Parks Liaison, Angelica Gutierrez

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hales moved to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Warbin moved to postpone the approval of the February 2015 minutes to next meeting, seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved.

#### **3. Agenda items**

##### **A. 7300 block of Forsyth Boulevard parking regulations**

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from residents of the south side of the 7300 block of Forsyth Blvd. to review parking restrictions along this block of Forsyth Blvd. The recent changes were explained along the 7000, 7100 and 7200 blocks of Forsyth Blvd such as residential parking permits implemented on the north side, and removal of peak hour restriction on the south side. The zoning along Forsyth Blvd. corridor within University City is different in nature, varying from Institutional, single home, multi-unit residential and limited commercial.

*Police Officer Margul reported that there had been 14 accidents in the last three years in that area, but none were attributed to the parking situation.*



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*Mr. Hales asked for clarification about the preferences on the spreadsheet provided.*

*Ms. Gutierrez indicated that option 5 was the first choice and option 4 was the second choice.*

*Mr. Barnes clarified that the residents first choice was 15 minute parking and no parking at all times was the second choice preference.*

*Ms. Wofsey asked if Colleen's Cookies has exacerbated the parking situation.*

*Ms. Gutierrez said it did not.*

Hal Colton and Jim Marchbank, both Presidents from the Condominium Associations from 7310 and 7320 Forsyth Blvd respectively, presented the safety issues they experience while exiting their parking garage. Pictures were presented to illustrate the sightline obstructions.

*Mr. Colton indicated that the only owner who voted to keep the parking unchanged does not live in the building and leases the unit. He indicated that when the parking restrictions were changed in front of their buildings, they were not notified of the changes being considered and implemented.*

*Mr. Hales asked and it was clarified that the proposed restrictions are only for the properties at 7310 and 7320 Forsyth Blvd.*

*Mr. Marchbank indicated that 7320 Forsyth Blvd received 100% response in favor of a 15 minute parking restriction and they have had a long standing concern about visibility regarding ingress and egress from the building and the recent changes in the parking restrictions have exacerbated the problem.*

*Mr. Hales asked what the distance of the parking restriction from an intersection.*

*Ms. Gutierrez indicated that the restriction is 30 feet when there is stop sign and 25 feet when there is no stop sign.*

*Mr. Hales asked how much the proposed restriction on 7310 Forsyth Blvd. would encroach upon the neighbor at 7318 Forsyth Blvd.*

*Ms. Gutierrez indicated that the restriction would encroach all the way to the driveway of 7318 whose owner did not provide feedback on the requested petition.*

*Mr. Hales expressed concern that if the commission implemented a restriction in front of 7318 Forsyth Blvd, that the owner may not like it and the commission might have to address this issue again.*

*Mr. Marchbank indicated that 7318 Forsyth has parking available in the back of the property and the property is a rental property believed to be occupied by Washington University students.*

*Mr. Womack indicated he had never seen so many cars in the area and asked what had changed.*

*Ms. Gutierrez indicated that the construction of these condominiums increased the density on this stretch of Forsyth.*

*Mr. Marchbank indicated that he did not believe these restrictions would impede traffic in any way, but would make it easier for residents to pull in and pull out of the properties.*

*Dr. Warbin shared his impressions of his site visit. He noted that when he stood in the driveway and looked east, he found most of the traffic was going the same speed and it took approximately 2 seconds for cars headed east to travel 60 feet. He noted that if he were turning west on Forsyth, he would look to his right to see that no traffic was coming*



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*and timed his glance from turning to the left back to the right and found it would take about 2 seconds and questioned whether the 60 foot restriction would add much safety, but agreed that something needs to be done. Dr. Warbin also indicated that some people are going to park where they want regardless of the restriction, which is why enforcement is necessary. He also noted that the photographs provided were taken at a higher vantage point than a person would be in a car and when looking from where a driver's eye level would be sitting lower in a car, the obstructions are more substantial.*

*Ms. Gutierrez answered a question of how the commission takes into consideration affected properties when dealing with condominiums. She indicated that this was a unique case because we're dealing with condominiums. The bylaws nor the city code specify how to handle petitions of condominiums and believed in this case each condo owner's vote should be considered.*

*Ms. Wofsey agreed in this situation that the commission should probably consider each condominium owner.*

The opinion of the majority of the property owners of both condominiums was unanimous, to implement a parking restriction on each side of the driveways, for a distance of 60 feet or 3 parking spaces. The first preference is to have the parking restriction for 15-minutes and the second preference was to restrict parking at all times.

The first preference is to have a 15-minute parking to allow the delivery trucks to park or any other short term parking need.

Police Officer Margul explained that enforcement is more effective for parking restrictions at all times, instead of 15-minute restrictions.

Mr. Barnes moved to request a petition (or two) from the affected properties (7310, 7318, 7320 Forsyth Blvd) to restrict parking for 15-minute OR to restrict parking at all times. Mr. Tunstall seconded the motioned and votes were:

*Mr. Barnes withdrew his motion and made a new motion to request two petitions from the affected properties (7310, 7318, 7320 Forsyth Blvd) to restrict parking for 15-minute AND to restrict parking at all times. Mr. Tunstall seconded the motion and the matter was discussed further.*

*Mr. Hales asked how the commission can balance the interests of two properties with 12 units each with one property in between with 2 units.*

*Ms. Wofsey suggested that the balancing is considered at the council level.*

*Dr. Kraft suggested that each condo owner should have a vote as they are each property owners.*

*Mr. Tunstall reminded the commission that 7318 Forsyth Blvd. is not owner occupied and did not respond to the petition and the concern is safety for the petitioners.*

AYES: Dr. Wabin, Ms. Creer, Mr. Womack, Mr. Tunstall



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NAYS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Hales, Ms. Wofsey.

Motion passed.

Requestors were instructed to solicit responses to their petition and submit it to City Staff.

### **B. The Lofts proposed Stop for Pedestrians Sign**

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from Andrew McCready to install a "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign on the alley located behind 6241/6263 Delmar Blvd building at the pedestrian walkway recently built at The Lofts of Washington University in St. Louis. City Staff recommended approval of the request.

Ms. Cheryl Adelstein said that The Lofts was a very successful project. The crossing is used by walkers as well as bicyclist and WUSTL is in the process of developing an Enright connector to Ackert Walkway for cyclists.

*Dr. Warbin asked if this request includes the selection of the signs in the handout and Ms. Gutierrez indicated it was the sign indicated on the handout with a red square around it.*

*Mr. Hales moved to approve the installation of the Signs as requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved.*

### **C. Gateway Bike Plan**

A presentation was provided to the Commission to learn about The Gateway Bike Plan. This plan is a result of a collaborative effort between the Great Rivers Greenway District, Missouri Department of Transportation, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Metro, numerous municipalities, St. Louis and St. Charles counties, City of St. Louis and Trailnet.

The Plan provides both a coordinated vision for accommodating and encouraging bicycling as a viable transportation mode, and practical action strategies for how to achieve this vision over the next 20 years. By working as a unified region across political boundaries, citizens will have access to one of the larger bicycle networks in the United States. The Plan includes detailed maps as well as strategic actions to achieve the recommended facilities along with education, enforcement and encouragement programs.

The Gateway Bike Plan is available online at <http://stlbikeplan.com/plan-documents>.

## **4. Council Liaison Report**

None



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### **5. Miscellaneous Business**

None

### **6. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes prepared by Angelica Gutierrez, Public Works and Parks Department *with amendments by Jeff Hales (shown in italics)*