



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 13, 2016

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, Commissioner Jeff Hales served as the Acting Chairperson and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Acting Chairperson Hales, the following members of the commission were present:

- Eva Creer
- Bob Warbin
- Derek Helderman

Also in attendance:

- Angelica Gutierrez (non-voting commission member – Public Works Liaison)

Absent:

- Carol Wofsey (excused)
- Curtis Tunstall (excused)
- Mark Barnes (excused)
- Councilmember Stephen Kraft (non-voting commission member – Council Liaison) (excused)
- Police Department Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting commission member – Police Department Liaison) (excused)

1. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the approval of the agenda, Mr. Hales welcomed newly appointed commissioner Derek Helderman and thanked longtime commission member Jackie Womack for his years of service. Dr. Warbin moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Ms. Creer and unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. December 9, 2015 minutes

Ms. Creer moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2015 meeting and was seconded by Dr. Warbin. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Agenda Items

A. Delcrest Drive Parking Restriction

Ms. Gutierrez presented the parking restriction request for a 25ft parking restriction on either side of the entrances to the Vanguard Crossing Apartment entrances. The staff recommendation was to recommend implementing the restrictions as requested.



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Dr. Warbin asked if 25ft was an adequate distance and indicated that from his visit, he thought it might be too small of a distance and found it very difficult to see in either direction and recommended a greater distance out of concerns for safety.

Ms. Gutierrez suggested the commission could recommend two car lengths, or 40ft instead.

Mr. Hales found the street visibility to be better because of the curved nature of the street and indicated he was pleased with the recommendation not to seek 75% of the property owners in favor of giving notice to the property owners and residents of the apartment buildings and the opportunity to come to the next traffic commission meeting for consideration. Mr. Hales asked if the commission needed to pick a distance or notify residents that the commission was considering a restriction of 25 to 40 ft.

Dr. Warbin stated that there were a car length open space on each side of the driveway on his visit and he found it difficult to see and asked if we needed to know the proposed distance restriction by the next meeting.

Ms. Gutierrez asked if the commission wanted to delay consideration of the recommendation until the next meeting.

Mr. Hales stated that his thought was to inform the property owners and renters of the proposed restriction and notice of the proposed restriction at the next commission meeting to give them an opportunity to attend.

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that staff was requesting a recommendation at the meeting so that they could get the signs installed.

Ms. Creer asked if the petitioner was satisfied with the 25ft proposed restriction.

Dr. Warbin stated that the petitioner is asking for 25ft but he found that to be too short a distance to provide an unobstructed view, but indicated that he was comfortable with 25ft as requested.

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that the MUTCD code recommends 125ft for clear visibility, but that is not necessarily wanted by residents.

Mr. Hales asked Ms. Gutierrez if she was asking the commission for a recommendation on the proposed restriction distance or asking the commission for a recommendation on the proposed restriction for the council.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that the commission has the authority to make the recommendation and that she was requesting the commission to make the



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recommendation and determine the list of affected households to notify citizens of the recommended restriction and implementation. Since the 25ft restriction is compliant with the city traffic code, a recommendation to restrict parking can be implemented immediately without going to the council for approval.

Mr. Hales expressed while he didn't have a concern about the proposed restrictions, he was concerned about making a recommendation without giving notice to the affected residents prior to voting on a recommendation. Mr. Hales stated he would be more comfortable if the affected properties could be notified and given the opportunity to come to the next commission meeting.

Ms. Creer stated that she agreed, and thought we should seek input from the affected residents before making a recommendation.

Mr. Hales asked if the commission should consider codifying a standard for applying the 25ft city code when new apartment complexes are built.

Dr. Warbin stated that he believed that there should be something in the city code to provide for adequate visibility and parking restrictions along the driveways of apartment complexes like the Vanguard and should be approved as part of the planning process.

Ms. Gutierrez agreed and said she would make a note and stated that she believed that this decision could be made since it only restricted three parking spaces; if it were 20 spaces, she would recommend notifying residents first.

Mr. Helderman asked if both apartment owners had been notified of the proposed restriction. Ms. Gutierrez indicated they had not yet been notified.

Dr. Warbin indicated 3 spaces or 20 spaces presented a slippery slope. Dr. Warbin stated that the restriction can be implemented without any council action and asked if the commission was being asked to put a stamp of approval on the recommendation and asked why if the city has the authority to restrict parking according to the city traffic code, why the city does not just do so.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that this was an unusual circumstance and the city would like to provide notice.

Mr. Hales agreed with Dr. Warbin and stated he would be more comfortable if there were something codified to implement parking restrictions on driveways for multifamily buildings of a certain size, or that are on streets less than a certain width, or have speed limits of more than a certain speed, so that the code is applied uniformly.



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Ms. Creer asked Ms. Gutierrez to clarify what the commission was being asked to do.

Ms. Gutierrez said that the staff was seeking a recommendation from the commission about the affected households for notification of the restriction.

Mr. Hales suggested the two properties should be 8342 Delcrest Dr. and 4 Delcrest Ct. but indicated he was uncomfortable with the process and felt the process would be better if notice were given to the affected residents prior to implementing a restriction.

Dr. Warbin stated that the issue of process is something the commission should consider, but that is separate from what the commission was being asked to do. Dr. Warbin suggested that the notice to the residents include the intention to restrict parking and questioned whether this should come before the traffic commission.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that the city could also implement the restriction on a temporary basis.

Mr. Hales asked if the restriction could be done on a temporary basis so that notice could be given to the affected residents and the item placed on the next meeting agenda so residents can have the opportunity to come to the meeting.

Dr. Warbin expressed that the notice to the commission was effectively a courtesy and the city has the right to implement the restrictions pursuant to the city traffic code and found it logical that that be done and questioned the need for it to come before the commission.

Mr. Hales agreed that it would be logical to implement the restriction in accordance with the code, but expressed concern that the code is not applied uniformly and suggested the commission recommend approving the temporary implementation of the signs and that the residents be notified and the issue restriction placed on the next agenda so that residents have an opportunity to speak to the commission.

Mr. Helderman agreed with Mr. Hales' suggestion and indicated that if there was no opposition from residents, the commission could recommend the implementation be permanent at the next meeting.

Mr. Helderman moved that the commission recommend implementation of the parking restrictions as recommended by staff on a temporary basis and that notice be given to the owners and residents of 8342 Delcrest Dr. and 4 Delcrest Ct. for the restriction to be discussed at the next commission meeting



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at which time the commission could make a recommendation on making the restriction permanent. Ms. Creer seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ms. Creer, Mr. Helderman, Mr. Hales

Nays: Dr. Warbin

4. Council Liaison Report

None

5. Miscellaneous Business

A. Loop Trolley Update

1. Bicycle Safety – Alternate Bicycle Route Implementation

Ms. Gutierrez presented the alternate bicycle route implementation to avoid bicycle traffic on Delmar because of the safety concerns presented by the trolley tracks.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Secretary