



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 October 14, 2015

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, October 14, 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
- Mark Barnes
- Eva Creer

Also in attendance:

- Councilmember Stephen Kraft (arrived at 6:34pm & departed at 7:12pm) (non-voting commission member – Council Liaison)
- City Engineer, Sinan Alpaslan P.E.
- Police Department Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting commission member – Police Department Liaison)

Absent:

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. May 13, 2015 minutes – Amended

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2015 meeting as amended. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with 5-1 vote with Dr. Warbin opposed.

B. September 9, 2015 minutes – Amended

Mr. Barnes moved to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting as amended. Ms. Creer seconded the motion. Ms. Wofsey requested three typographical corrections be made. Dr. Warbin made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested corrections and was seconded by Mr. Tunstall. The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-1 with Dr. Warbin opposed.



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3. Agenda Items

A. 8370 Elmore Ave (Coolidge side) Parking Restriction

Mr. Alpaslan presented a request from a resident at 8370 Elmore for a parking restriction on Coolidge related to commercial parking at 8375 Olive Blvd. There is currently one hour parking restriction on Coolidge Dr. between Olive and the alley between 9 am and 6pm on all days. Business parking spaces are limited and the Community Development Department indicates this business requires 6 off street parking spaces, but it appears the business may require more spaces and longer parking times. Staff recommended that the Traffic Commission determine the list of affected households for a petition to implement the requested parking restriction, or request the resident request the implementation of residential permit parking.

Mr. Barnes asked for clarification about the block in question.

Mr. Alpaslan indicated that the block of Coolidge in question is from Olive Blvd. to Elmore Ave. including the alley which runs behind the properties. The area north of the alley is zoned residential. The area south of the alley is zoned commercial.

Mr. Barnes indicated that this would make the residential area eligible for parking restrictions.

Dr. Warbin asked about the two requested recommendations.

Mr. Alpaslan indicated that the two recommendations were considered after consulting the rules and procedures.

Ms. Wofsey noticed that the only restrictions in the area include the 1 hour parking restriction on Coolidge from Olive north to the alley and a handicap accessible restriction in front of 8370 Elmore Ave. Ms. Wofsey asked Sergeant Whitley if there had been any complaints in the area.

Sergeant Whitley was unaware of any complaints related to parking the area and suggested the commission consider restricting parking on the east side of Coolidge and leaving open parking on the west side of Coolidge.

Petitioner Rochelle Johnson spoke to the commission about the ongoing lack of parking available to her residence related to commercial parking for a yoga studio at 8375 Olive Blvd. Ms. Johnson indicated that what Sergeant Whitley had suggested is what they are seeking. Ms. Johnson had also recently spoken to one of the owners of the building Janet Cronin.



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Janet Cronin indicated that she only recently became aware of the parking issues related to the commercial parking at her building and indicated that she hoped to work together with the resident to find a resolution to the issues.

Mr. Barnes asked where a residential parking permit would be applied.

Mr. Alpaslan indicated that at a minimum it would be one side of the street in front of one house, from the alley north to Elmore Ave on the east side of Coolidge and indicated that the affected area would be the properties from Olive to Elmore on the east side of Coolidge.

Mr. Hales asked if the city would be giving residential permit parking passes to commercial businesses.

Mr. Alpaslan indicated we had never done something like this before and residential permit parking should not be open to commercial parking and he did not believe the commission had dealt with a case like this.

Mr. Hales stated that the commission had addressed a similar situation prior to his serving on the commission when he petitioned the commission related to residential parking for a neighborhood adjacent to commercial buildings. He indicated that in that instance that the residential permit area began at the first house and extended for the entire block and signatures were obtained for 75% of the homeowners on the block. He indicated that there were 12 homes on the block and the commercial properties were not included on the petition.

Dr. Warbin stated that in this case, there is only 1 property owner north of the alley to the end of the block and asked the petitioner how many spaces she would like to which Ms. Johnson responded "2 or 3".

Ms. Wofsey indicated that she cannot think of another instance where the sole beneficiary of residential parking restrictions is one resident and expressed concern about that.

Mr. Hales asked if Ms. Johnson knew the owner at 8404 Elmore and suggested that the commission consider including 8404 Elmore as part of the affected area.

Mr. Kraft expressed concern over the precedent for one petitioner to seek residential parking solely for their house.

Ms. Creer stated the petitioner should be able to have residential parking and referenced a similar request the commission dealt with on Braddock.

Mr. Hales recalled the Braddock case was not a case of residential parking but a request to restrict parking behind a driveway to allow egress for the resident. It was an unusual case but 3 adjacent property owners were unanimous in supporting the restriction. Mr. Hales agreed with the concern over the precedent, but also cited the unique circumstance of this case.



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Mr. Tunstall asked Ms. Johnson if her preference was to have restrictions on both Elmore and Coolidge.

Ms. Johnson indicated she would like to park on the east side of Coolidge and the south side of Elmore.

Mr. Tunstall asked how many spaces were available to her building.

Ms. Cronin indicated that there were 4 spaces directly behind her building and 2 spaces in front. The other buildings to the east are owned by another owner. Ms. Cronin indicated that she was more than willing to reach out to the other businesses on the block to see if they could work together to minimize the problem.

Ms. Cronin and Ms. Johnson agreed to work together to try to find a suitable resolution and would be in touch with staff from Public Works.

4. Council Liaison Report

None

5. Miscellaneous Business

A. Chapter 305, Traffic Administration – University City Traffic Code

Mr. Alpaslan provided this section of the code for the commissions review relating to temporary parking regulations. Temporary parking regulations cannot exceed 12 months and must be established by the City Manager. City Council is advised by the City Manager of any temporary regulations and is not often used.

Ms. Wofsey asked if the commission could ask the City Manager for temporary regulations and Mr. Alpaslan confirmed.

Mr. Hales recalled the last meeting where Mr. Barnes had asked if the commission could make recommendations on its own initiative. He noted that this section of the code does not address that question.

Ms. Wofsey stated that she believed that just as a citizen may, the commission may bring forward its own issues and suggestions to consider.

B. Bylaws Approval

C.

Mr. Warbin asked if we were going to address the items marked in yellow.

Ms. Wofsey believed that was the case, and asked that we put a date on the revised bylaws once approved.

Mr. Hales stated that we had approved the changes to the bylaws at the last meeting and he was confused as to why it was on the agenda again.



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Ms. Wofsey indicated she thought it might be just a review of what was passed at the previous meeting and suggested that we accept the approved minutes.

Dr. Warbin moved to “accept” the approved bylaws changes made at the previous meeting and was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved.

D. Additional Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Hales stated that he had attended a meeting the night before of University Heights and City Staff regarding a proposed parking lot on the site of the Delmar Harvard Playground. He stated that a number of residents expressed that they would like to see the proposal go through the commissions and wanted to know if the city was planning to bring the proposal to the commission, and if not, he believed the commission should consider addressing the issue itself as the proposal calls for a 112 space parking lot which he believed represented a significant change that would potentially impact traffic, particularly on Sgt. Mike King Blvd.

Ms. Wofsey requested that staff advise the commission as to whether the matter will be brought to the commission, and if not, why not.

Mr. Alpaslan indicated that the Public Works Department was asked for comments by the Community Development Department that would be incorporated into the final proposal. He indicated that he would find out whether the proposal would be brought to the Traffic Commission, and if not, why.

Dr. Warbin asked if the commission has dealt with parking lots in the past.

Ms. Wofsey stated that the commission addresses issues traffic and traffic studies and mentioned the Loop Parking Study which the commission had yet to have seen. She indicated that the number of parking spaces could affect parking and traffic patterns and would be appropriate for the commission to discuss. Ms. Wofsey believed this might be a gray area as it relates to the Traffic Commission’s jurisdiction and would like to know from staff.

Mr. Hales clarified that the lot is to be 112 spaces and will be privately owned, but will be a public pay lot and that per the ordinance related to the Traffic Commission in the city code, the commission has discretion over issues of both traffic and parking and believes the proposal would fall under the purview of the commission.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Secretary