



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 June 8, 2016

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 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
- Jeff Hales
- Eva Creer
- Derek Helderman

Also in attendance:

- Angelica Gutierrez (non-voting commission member – Public Works Liaison)
- Police Department Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting commission member – Police Department Liaison)

Absent:

- Mark Barnes (excused)
- Bob Warbin (excused)

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. May 11, 2016 minutes

Mr. Helderman moved to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2016 meeting. Ms. Creer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Agenda Items

A. Municipal Parking Lots – Parking Regulations – Delmar Loop

Ms. Gutierrez presented a request from the Loop Special Business District Director of Marketing, Jessica Bueler. The applicant requested an extension of parking hours on municipal lot #1 and a new 24 hour parking restriction on municipal lots 3 and 4.

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that there is a 2 hour parking restriction on weekdays between 6pm and 6am in the code for parking lot 4, but there are no signs present and the restriction is not enforced. She stated that it is unclear as to why the signs came down. On parking lot number 1, the request is to extend the parking lot closing time to 3:30am from 2:30am to accommodate a number of businesses are 24 hours as well as businesses who have staff who stay late after closing.



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Sgt. Whitley informed the commission that the Loop Diner is open 24 hours as Club Fitness.

Ms. Wofsey suggested addressing each parking lot individually starting with Lot 1, the request to extend the closing hour by one hour.

Ms. Wofsey asked if there had been any complaints from the Parkview neighborhood about noise on Lot 1 late at night.

Ms. Gutierrez stated there had not been complaints from neighbors about noise on the lot late at night.

Mr. Hales made a motion to recommend the proposed change for Municipal Parking Lot 1 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Helderman and unanimously approved.

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request that parking lot number 3 restrictions be changed to allow for 24 hour parking to allow for patrons to have a safe place to park their car overnight should they need to leave their car and take a cab home or get a ride.

Sgt. Whitley informed the commission he observed the parking lot on the late shift for about a week and found overnight parking to average 44 cars per night on lots 3 and 4 combined which have over 400 spaces. He observed some business vehicles including two vans and food trucks. He also noted there was an apartment complex nearby on Kingsland and found a concentration of cars in the southwest corner of the lot.

Mr. Tunstall asked if the request was a recommendation from staff or a petition.

Ms. Gutierrez indicated it was a request from Ms. Bueler and a recommendation from staff and indicated that staff would like the recommendations to be the same for lots 3 and 4. She also indicated that enforcement of 24 hour parking on those lots would not be feasible for enforcement according to the police department. Based on that information staff was questioning the need for a 24 hour restriction.

Mr. Tunstall indicated that he thought that if he lived in the nearby apartments on Kingsland, he would likely park in Lot 4.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that she felt that the nearby residents deserved special consideration. Ms. Wofsey stated that the lot is a municipal lot and perhaps those residents should be charged for use of the lot. She stated that while she's not there at 4am trying to park, parking is difficult on that lot during the day. Ms. Wofsey asked if there was a problem with longer term parking on Lots 3 and 4.

Sgt. Whitley indicated that the city has in the past received requests from church groups to use the lots to leave their cars on the lots for events and trips. He indicated that the department has not found the longer term parking to be a problem.



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Mr. Hales asked Sgt. Whitley if the city code related to not leaving vehicles parked on a street for more than 5 days extended to the municipal lots.

Sgt. Whitley indicated that it does not to his knowledge.

Mr. Hales expressed that his concern was if someone had an extra car and leaves it parked on the lot for weeks at a time. Mr. Hales stated that without having metered spaces, he didn't know how it would be feasible to track how long vehicles were parked on the lot. He stated that a 24 hour restriction may serve as a deterrent for long term parking but questioned whether it posed a problem currently.

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that this was the first time this has been brought to the city's attention and she did not believe it posed a problem currently. She stated that it was suggested to her as an idea that parking could be restricted on the lots between 3:30 am and 6:30 am and allow for businesses to have passes for their staff that may need to stay late.

Ms. Wofsey asked if a car would be ticketed or towed for parking during the restricted hours.

Sgt. Whitley stated that cars may be ticketed but would not be towed unless they had previous violations which would first result in a boot being applied to one of the wheels.

Mr. Hales stated he didn't believe it would be a good idea to restrict parking on lots 3 and 4 because of the potential impact it may have on businesses and residents. He suggested if the commission were to recommend a restriction in the future, the commission might consider making it on just one of the two lots and stated that he would like to hear from Jessica Bueler as to her rationale for the request. Mr. Hales asked if staff was no longer making the recommendation presented in the Traffic Commission packet.

Ms. Gutierrez confirmed that city staff is no longer making the recommendation for lots 3 and 4 as presented in the meeting packet and would like to dismiss the recommendation.

Ms. Wofsey stated that she personally was not in favor of recommending a parking restriction because she was not clear if the business owners believe there is an issue and whether a restriction would solve the issue.

Mr. Tunstall stated that he believed we needed to hear from the business owners before proposing a restriction because staff was no longer making a recommendation.

Mr. Hales stated that he did not believe the commission needed to make any motion if it did not want to make any recommendation.

Ms. Wofsey asked that we let Ms. Bueler know that the commission would like more information before proceeding with any recommendations on lots 3 and 4.



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B. Forsyth Blvd. and Bland Drive Intersection – No Left Turn from Gas Station Driveway

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that there have only been 2 accidents reported in the last 3 years and staff then changed their recommendation because there was not enough evidence to warrant a restriction. She indicated the city plans to closely monitor intersection to gather more information and the commission will revisit the issue in September. She stated that the petitioner was informed and was not pleased. She also indicated that the owner of the property has changes planned for the property but did not provide any specifics.

No motions were made on the issue.

4. Council Liaison Report

None

5. Miscellaneous Business

None

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Secretary