



## 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 12, 2017

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, Chairman Jeff Hales called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. In addition to Chairman Hales, the following members of the commission were present:

- Bart Stewart
- Jeff Zornes
- Derek Helderman
- Jeffrey Mishkin

Also in attendance:

- Errol Tate (non-voting member – Public Works Liaison)
- Sinan Alpaslan (Public Works Director)
- Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson (non-voting member—Council Liaison)

Absent:

- Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting member – Police Department Liaison)
- Eva Creer (excused)
- Curtis Tunstall

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Helderman moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Mr. Zornes. The motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

#### A. March 8, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Helderman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting and was seconded by Mr. Mishkin. The motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Agenda Items

#### a. No Parking Restriction in front of 709 Interdrive

Mr. Tate presented the request from applicant / resident Rhowsheda Markovich of 709 Interdrive to restrict parking 5 feet to the south of her driveway due to a persistent problem with cars parking in front of her driveway.

Ms. Markovich spoke to the commission about her experience with cars parking over the edge of her driveway, often blocking her in. She stated that because of the narrow street and space constraints, it makes it impossible for a tow truck to tow a car blocking her driveway.



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Mr. Tate elaborated on the staff's position on the request. He indicated the only restrictions are for street sweeping and stated that from his observation driving by, he was in agreement with the applicant about cars parking over the edge of her driveway and recommended a 5 foot parking restriction as requested south of the applicant's driveway.

Mr. Hales asked if Ms. Markovich was the only person on the block experiencing this problem. Ms. Markovich stated she did not know if others were affected but stated that her house is the first house on the block and is closest to The Loop.

Greg Sherrill of 1018 Llewellyn Lane informed the commission that this house is one of the only houses that has a driveway in the front of the house.

Mr. Zornes asked if staff was recommending both painting the curb and installing a sign. Mr. Tate suggested that the curb be painted first to see if that would resolve the matter. Mr. Hales stated that he experienced a similar situation with cars parking over his driveway and his understanding was that in order for the parking restriction to be enforceable, it would require a sign be placed and codified by ordinance. Mr. Alpaslan stated that he believed that by painting the curb yellow, it would be enforceable on a temporary basis but would ultimately require a sign.

Mr. Stewart asked what the reservation was about installing a sign. Mr. Tate stated that because there were already parking restrictions on the street, it would be confusing and suggest the entire area would be restricted. Mr. Alpaslan suggested two signs; one on either side of the driveway.

Mr. Mishkin mentioned that it was stated that it was not possible to tow a car from blocking the driveway and asked if there was any other remedy aside from ticketing the car. Mr. Stewart suggested that the restriction would hopefully serve as a deterrent. Ms. Markovich stated that when she has called the police over cars being parked in front of her driveway, she was told they could not do anything. Mr. Alpaslan stated that the ordinances state that a car can be ticketed for blocking a driveway. Mr. Hales stated that he had previously observed the police ticketing cars for blocking his driveway.

Mr. Stewart made a motion that the traffic commission recommend restricting parking 5 feet from both sides of the applicant's driveway at 709 Interdrive and mark the restriction with paint and signage on five . Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Compact Car Restriction Review.**



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Mr. Tate presented the staff recommendation for a proposed compact car restriction. He included the email from City Attorney Katie Forrester requesting clarification of the language that the commission would like to see.

Mr. Zornes expressed concerns over small CUVs that are compact, but still tall which could obstruct sightlines.

Mr. Hales expressed concern over the definition's including interior cubic feet. Mr. Stewart suggested that the commission try to keep the terms simple. Mr. Zornes concurred suggesting a restriction on trucks, vans, minivans and SUVs with a height restriction. Mr. Helderman agreed. Councilmember Smotherson agreed as well.

Mr. Helderman stated that the documentation presented in 2014 included Clayton's ordinance restricting vehicles over 60 inches.

Mr. Hales stated that he believed we needed input from the police department for the ideal language to be included on the signs as well as in the ordinance. Mr. Alpaslan stated that the police department wants any ordinance to be clear and recommended the input from the police department.

Mr. Hales asked if the commission wants recommend an ordinance that addresses a compact car, or an ordinance that restricts the height of vehicles for certain parking spaces. Mr. Stewart stated he believed the primary concern was the height of the vehicle causing an obstructed view. Mr. Helderman agreed that the height is the primary concern.

Mr. Tate reminded the commission that there city does have limited parking in some areas and including a compact car to the restriction could be helpful. Mr. Hales agreed that there is merit to a compact car ordinance as well, but stated that his recollection of the concerns brought to the commission in recent years have been about the height of cars creating a visibility and sightline issues, rather than the length of the vehicle.

Mr. Helderman asked if the commission could make its recommendation on the nature of the restriction and types of vehicles to be restricted and ask for the input of the police department.

Mr. Hales asked if the draft ordinance would be presented to the commission once it is written for final recommendation to council. Mr. Alpaslan indicated that would be the best way to proceed since it would be a new ordinance, rather than amending an existing ordinance.

Mr. Zornes made a motion to give the commission's recommendation on implementing a restriction allowing compact car / motorcycle parking only and



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restricting parking of all vans, minivans, trucks and SUVs. Mr. Mishkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **c. Loop South Two-Way Traffic Review Draft**

Mr. Tate presented the review of the Loop Two-Way Traffic proposal. He reported that the traffic engineer had evaluated Loop South and determined parking could remain on the south side of the street providing for more parking spaces.

Mr. Hales asked if staff was still seeking to implement the new parking and two way traffic at the same time. Mr. Tate confirmed.

Mr. Mishkin asked if the change would be applied west from Leland to Kingsland. Mr. Tate confirmed.

Mr. Mishkin asked what the value of making Loop South a two-way street. Mr. Alpaslan stated that it makes it much easier for wayfinding for customers and delivery vehicles. Mr. Zornes stated that he read that the merchants believed it would benefit their businesses and customers.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to recommend that Loop South be made a two way street with striped parallel parking on the south side of the street. Mr. Helderman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Council Liaison Report**

Councilmember Smotherson informed the commission that Centene's ground breaking is set for April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **7. Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Zornes asked if University City has looked into switching its parking system to something similar to what the City of St. Louis uses like Park Mobile where you can pay using an app.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that it would lower the cost of maintenance of the meters by switching to pay stations.

Mr. Smotherson stated that he would recommend the council look into the issue.

### **8. Adjournment.**

Mr. Mishkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Stewart. The motion unanimously carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Chairman & Secretary