



## 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 December 13, 2017

#### 1. Call to Order

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, Chairman Jeff Hales called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

In addition to Chairman Hales, the following members of the commission were present:

- Jeffrey Mishkin
- Curtis Tunstall (departed 7:31)
- Derek Helderman
- Jeff Zornes
- Bart Stewart (arrived 6:51)

Also in attendance:

- Errol Tate(non-voting member – Public Works Liaison)
- Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson (non-voting member—Council Liaison)
- Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting member – Police Department Liaison) -
- Sinan Alpaslan – Director of Public Works & Parks

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Zornes moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Mishkin. The agenda was approved unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of the Minutes

##### A. November 8, 2017

Commissioner Helderman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017 meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Tunstall. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Agenda Items

##### a. Our Lady of Lourdes Traffic Study

Chairman Hales introduced the agenda item as presented in the packet with the staff recommendation.

Monsignor Richard Hanneke (7148 Forsyth) introduced himself as the pastor of Lourdes Parish and explained the proposed construction plans for Lourdes and introduced Mr. Lee Cannon.

Mr. Lee Cannon, Principal with CBB (12400 Olive St. STE 430) stated they had provided the traffic assessment to the city after consultation with the city. Their primary concern, he said, dealt with traffic patterns related to passenger drop off and pickup and minimizing the impact to the neighborhood. He



## Traffic Commission

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

stated the school has a mix of drop offs by car as well as a number of neighborhood children who walk. He stated the net increase to parking would be 13 and that vehicles will enter the new parking lot and drop off / pickup area from Forsyth and then exit directly to Forsyth from the lot to go east bound or through a new connector road to Northmoor to go around to the light at Asbury to turn west on Forsyth. He stated there would be a need to eliminate a few parking places due to the new driveways for the new parking lot. He indicated that initially they do not recommend restriction on turning west directly out of the parking lot onto Forsyth, but the applicant would be agreeable if the city would determine that left turns be restricted onto Forsyth during drop off and pickup hours. The proposed plans are to be safer and more efficient.

Chairman Hales asked if there would be a need to restrict parking in front of the church for a traffic queue into the parking lot. Mr. Cannon stated that it was not anticipated that traffic would need to queue on Forsyth.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the enrollment was expected to increase. Monsignor Hanneke stated the enrollment would grow from 225 to 250 and that 30 percent of the students walk to school.

Mr. Hales asked if the new load would lessen the volume of traffic exiting to Forsyth from Asbury. Mr. Cannon stated he believed it would.

Commissioner Mishkin asked about the construction plans and how traffic and parking would be impacted. Monsignor Hanneke stated that the demolition of the homes and apartments would be done first to construct the new parking lot before the new buildings are built on the existing playground and parking lot.

Sgt. Whitley stated he believed that restricting the exit to right turns only on to Forsyth during drop off and pick up hours may be best. He also mentioned that there was some discussion related to improvements related to the Centene project. Mr. Tate stated that there are plans in the works to improve Forsyth including ADA improvements and improvements with the traffic signal.

Mr. Hales asked if the 4 ADA spaces were to be on Asbury or on the Lourdes property. Mark Ditch (2 E. Fifth St. Washington, MO) stated that the spaces would be van accessible spaces on Asbury.

Mr. Hales stated that the commission was asked to provide additional comments of the site plan and asked if the commissioners had any comments to share.

Mr. Hales stated he believed the proposed plans looked like a big improvement. Commissioner Zornes made a motion to approve the



## Traffic Commission

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

recommendations provided by CBB and was seconded by Commissioner Helderman. The motion carried unanimously. The commission had no additional comments to share.

### **b. Bicycles Facilities Phase 3**

Mr. Hales presented the proposed changes as outlined in the packet to convert Pershing Ave to one lane of traffic in both directions with a bike lane in each direction.

Travis Helmkamp of Oates Associates (720 Olive St. STE 700) presented the proposed plans. He stated they analyzed the traffic on Pershing to determine whether the traffic flow could be accommodated in each direction. Their finding is that the road can be converted to one traffic lane in each direction. He indicated that the east bound lanes would begin east of Hanley and terminate at the pedestrian crossing at Flynn Park.

Mr. Hales asked if the restriping would include reconfiguring the intersection of little Pershing with big Pershing to require a stop and right turn from westbound little Pershing on to westbound big Pershing. Mr. Alpaslan stated that this was still planned but not at the design phase yet. He stated that the larger challenge is how to connect the east bound bike lane from big Pershing onto little Pershing, crossing the median. Mr. Helmkamp stated that they believe there is enough space to create the intersection as described.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if they would be coming back to the commission with the design at a later time. Mr. Helmkamp confirmed they would and Mr. Tate confirmed they would.

Mr. Hales stated that he had been requesting this for a long time and lives nearby. He asked what the buffer would be. Mr. Helmkamp stated there would be a 3ft buffer between the bike lane and the traffic lane. Mr. Hales asked if there would be a buffer between the bike lane and the parked cars. Mr. Helmkamp said that is a consideration and can be accommodated.

Sgt. Whitley suggested a two way stop, one for west bound little Pershing at westbound big Pershing with the second stop sign on east bound big Pershing at little Pershing. Mr. Helmkamp stated that they envisioned bicyclist using the signalized crosswalk. Mr. Alpaslan asked Mr. Helmkamp if they could look into the possibility of adding a stop sign at that location.

Commissioner Helderman asked if there would be any striping on east bound Pershing giving notice of the termination of the bike lane. Mr. Helmkamp stated that it would be a combination of striping and signage.

Mr. Hales stated that he thought it would be good and make sense for the west bound bike lane to continue west of Hanley Road and for the city to



## Traffic Commission

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

coordinate and work with Clayton to continue the bike lane into Clayton with sharrows or a dedicated lane. He stated he thought it was weird that the bike lane starts and stops. Mr. Alpaslan stated that he thought this would require citizen engagement due to the nature of the change to Pershing.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the design extends into Clayton. Mr. Helmkamp stated it was limited to University City.

Mr. Hales stated that he wanted to reiterate the importance of coordinating with Clayton. He cited the model used on Wydown west bound at Big Bend for a thru bicycle lane.

Mr. Smotherson asked about the consideration of the Centene expansion and the increased traffic flow. Mr. Helmkamp stated that they had not looked at the increased traffic, but they are well below the traffic threshold for a two lane road and would have to double to warrant four lanes.

Mr. Hales stated that from a safety standpoint, he was recently at Taco Buddha and observed an accident at Jackson and Pershing and was told that they regularly see accidents at that intersection because two cars will stop at different times on Pershing. Mr. Alpaslan confirmed that the plan would be for the single lane to continue through Jackson intersection on Pershing and Mr. Helmkamp confirmed.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the homeowners had been informed along Jackson. Mr. Hales stated he had spoken with a number of neighbors in Alta Dena who were thrilled with the proposal.

Mr. Tate asked the commission to approve the plans to move forward with the design. Commissioner Mishkin made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Zornes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **c. 7400 Block of Kingsbury Residential Parking Permit System**

Mr. Hales introduced the request to implement a residential parking permit system on the 7000 block of Kingsbury Blvd.

Gail Milder of 7012 Kingsbury addressed the commission about her desire to implement residential permit parking in the 7000 block of Kingsbury. She stated there is an ongoing parking problem on their block which has been greatly exacerbated by the reduced parking at Washington University due to construction. She stated she believed her neighbors were in support. She stated she had spoken to community relations at Washington University was told they could not do anything. She noted that the nearby blocks of Waterman and Pershing have residential parking and parking has migrated to Kingsbury.



## Traffic Commission

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

Mr. Hales asked if the applicant had given consideration to the times they would like. She stated she believed 9am to 9pm Monday through Friday would address the concerns.

Commissioner Helderman made a motion to designate the 7000 block as the affected households for the petition on both sides of the street. Commissioner Mishkin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**d. 7400 Block of Cornell Ave. – No Parking Signs on the west end at Hanley**

Mr. Hales stated that the code already reflects a parking restriction within 30 ft. of a stop sign and he didn't believe any action was necessary by the commission to install signs restricting parking to conform existing code.

Mr. Tunstall had to leave at 7:31pm.

David Snyder of 7454 Cornell addressed the concern about the limited sightlines and congested street at the intersection which make ingress and egress difficult and more dangerous.

Mr. Hales stated that he thought that the commission understood the issue and asked if staff really wanted the commission to make a recommendation. Mr. Hales asked if the code called for a parking restriction on both sides of the street within 30 ft. from a stop sign. Mr. Tate stated he would have to check. Mr. Alpaslan stated it should be restricted on both sides.

Mr. Hales made a motion to erect no parking signs at that intersection according to the code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zornes and passed unanimously.

## **6. Council Liaison Report**

Mr. Smotherson reported that the council hired a new City Manager named Gregory Rose who will be starting on December 28, 2017. Mr. Smotherson also reported that the plans for the microbrewery at Olive and North and South will not proceed. He also stated that the plans for a new development at Olive and 170 are proceeding. Mr. Smotherson thanked the commissioners for their service and wished everyone happy holidays and happy new year.

## **7. Miscellaneous Business**

**a. Compact Car Ordinance**

Mr. Tate presented the commission with the draft ordinance which has been sent to City Attorney John Mulligan and stated that he was asking for any feedback from the commission.

Mr. Hales asked if the ordinance was drafted by the Public Works Department and asked if they referred to other municipal codes. Mr. Tate stated he had



## Traffic Commission

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

referred to Clayton's ordinance among other municipalities. Mr. Hales stated that the ordinance was consistent with his recollection. Commissioner Zornes stated he had read the ordinance and that it covered all the bases discussed by the commission and thought it looked good.

Mr. Hales asked if the final ordinance needed to come back to the commission if there were not substantial material changes. Mr. Tate stated he would bring the final draft of the ordinance from the City Attorney back to the Traffic Commission for a recommendation.

Commissioner Helderman stated he thought portion of the ordinance that restricted cars of a certain interior cubic footage creates an undue burden on a motorist to know the interior cubic volume of their vehicle. Mr. Hales said he believed it posed a bigger problem for Sgt. Whitley to know those figures. Commissioner Helderman said he thought it seemed a bit obscure and was a question for the City Attorney.

### **b. Honorary Street Ordinance**

Mr. Hales said he would be interested to see the feedback from the City Attorney on the draft Honorary Street Name Ordinance but had one question. He asked whose recommendation was it that a petition require 75% of the signatures of the block. Mr. Tate responded that it was staff's recommendation, and he had communicated that to one of the individuals requesting an honorary street name and she asked why the 75% would be necessary if it were just an honorary name. He stated that without obtaining signatures, there could be requests to rename honorary streets every six months.

Mr. Hales stated that he couldn't remember if Commissioner Helderman previously stated, but he would be interested in the reasons a resident would oppose and proposed honorary street name.

Mr. Smotherson asked if the ordinance was only for University City owned streets and stated he thought the ordinance should perhaps exclude collector streets and streets not owned by University City. Commissioner Mishkin agreed.

Mr. Hales asked related to the 75% in the draft ordinance that it states that it should be registered voters and stated that he didn't not believe it should be limited to registered voters. Mr. Tate stated it would be changed to property owners. Commissioner Helderman agreed and asked if there would be a standard or template to be used for the sign and expressed concern that one group may want to spend more for a larger sign. He asked how the city regulates the size and color of the sign. Mr. Hales stated he thought the signs should follow a sign standard. Commissioner Mishkin said he thought standards were important.



## Traffic Commission

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

Commissioner Helderman said he believed this was a very good function of the body to have come up with a creative solution to satisfy a desire to recognize individuals short of renaming streets.

Mr. Hales stated that he would like to know if the council or staff believes that a future request for an honorary street name is something that should come to the traffic commission or go directly to council. Mr. Tate said he believed that it up to the commission as to whether they think it should come to the commission.

Commissioner Helderman stated that he believed the commission was on board with the proposed code and if the purpose for coming to the commission is to rubberstamp a proposed honorary street name, he thought it could just go to council. Commissioner Mishkin agreed as long as the signatures were there and were valid.

Mr. Tate asked what the process would be to change an honorary name in the future. Commissioner Zornes stated he thought a new petition would be necessary to change a name, replacing a previous name. Mr. Smotherson agreed a new petition should be needed to change the name or take it down. Commissioner Mishkin asked if the same 75% threshold should be necessary to remove an honorary street name. Mr. Hales said he believed that the council needs to weigh in on this ordinance. Mr. Smotherson stated that is why he raised his earlier point, that there are aspects of the draft ordinance that he would like to have amended and will address with the council.

Mr. Hales asked if we could summarize the feedback. Commissioner Helderman stated he wanted to ensure that all of the honorary signs have a standardized design and size and look the same. Mr. Hales stated the draft should be changed to reflect a petition of 75% of the property owners instead of registered voters and should include the process to remove an honorary street name.

### **c. Traffic Commission Annual Report**

Mr. Hales stated that at the end of the year the commission has to approve the annual report to be signed by the chair and presented to the council. He said the report was emailed to the commission earlier in the day and was not in the packet. Mr. Hales asked the status of the Centene project referenced in the annual report. Mr. Alpaslan stated that he did not have that information with him. Mr. Tate stated that the city made the construction company remove their barricades and parking from the triangle portion of land in University City because they were not given permission to use the land for staging. He stated that they are now requesting to use the site for parking and staging.



## Traffic Commission

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

Mr. Hales stated that he would prefer more time to go through it and would prefer to have the report in front of the commission before approving. Commissioner Helderman asked if we could look at the report in January.

Commissioner Helderman asked if there was an update on the Loop Trolley. Mr. Alpaslan stated that the trolley derailment exercise had been cancelled for December due to holiday shopping and would be rescheduled with the police and fire departments for January. Mr. Alpaslan stated there were still 10 to 15 remaining items on the Loop Trolley's punch list of requirements. Mr. Hales asked if there has been progress on their punch list since the last meeting. Mr. Alpaslan stated there had been one or two items crossed off the list.

Mr. Hales said that one of the requirements of the C.U.P for the Loop Trolley was the securing of a bond to put the roads back and asked if that had been done. Mr. Alpaslan stated that has not been finalized but it is ready to be signed.

Commissioner Helderman asked if there was any progress on bicycle safety. Mr. Alpaslan stated the status is the same.

Mr. Hales stated the only other item he had to discuss was Commissioner Mishkin is up for reappointment and he believed Mr. Smotherson would be happy to reappoint him. Mr. Smotherson stated he had already asked and Commissioner Mishkin stated he would like to be reappointed.

### **8. Adjournment.**

Chairman Hales wished everyone a happy holiday and adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Chairman & Secretary