



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 September, 13 2017

1. Call to Order

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, Chairman Jeff Hales called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

- Bart Stewart
- Jeffrey Mishkin (left the meeting at 8:49pm)
- Jeff Zornes
- Curtis Tunstall
- Derek Helderman

Also in attendance:

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

Absent:

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Hales raised a concern about the proposed street name changes listed on the agenda. He stated that there was a procedure provided in the packet and asked if 1. the procedure had reached the point where the issue is to be brought to the commission and 2., he stated that the ordinances related to the traffic commission do not state anything related to street names. He stated he thought the other procedures should be followed before coming before the commission and asked for feedback from staff and perhaps the city attorney as to whether reviewing requests to rename streets fall under the purview of the Traffic Commission. He asked for a brief discussion and feedback from staff and the commissioners.

Mr. Tate stated that staff was interested in the commission determining the affected households. Chairman Hales stated he understood, but the procedure provided by staff for a street name change listed the traffic commission as the 11th step. Mr. Tate stated he wanted to bring this to the commission for advisement before beginning the procedure. Chairman Hales stated that he and Vice-Chairman Tunstall were the longest serving commissioners and in their time, the commission has never received a request to rename a street and this was very new.



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Commissioner Helderman stated that having not read the procedure until just before the meeting, he was not comfortable proceeding with the agenda item. Chairman Hales asked if there were citizens in attendance who were requesting to speak on the street renaming agenda items and noted there were three. Chairman Hales stated he thought it would probably be best to leave the items on the agenda and suggested moving forward with the approval of the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A. July 12, 2017

Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Mishkin. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Agenda Items

a. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary

Chairman Hales opened nominations for Chairperson. Vice Chairman Tunstall nominated Jeff Hales to continue as Chairperson of the Traffic Commission and was seconded by Commissioner Helderman. Chairman Hales asked if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations. A vote on the motion to nominate Jeff Hales to serve as Chairperson passed unanimously.

Chairman Hales opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Chairman Hales asked Vice Chairman Tunstall if he would like to be nominated again. Commissioner Tunstall stated he would like to nominate Bart Stewart. Commissioner Mishkin seconded the nomination. Chairman Hales asked if there were any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations. A voice vote on the nomination of Bart Stewart as Vice Chairperson passed unanimously.

Chairman Hales opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Commissioner Zornes nominated Jeff Hales to serve as Secretary and was seconded Commissioner Mishkin. A voice vote on the nomination unanimously carried.

b. 7200 Block of Lindell Boulevard Residential Parking Permit Petition

Mr. Tate introduced the request and petition for the residential parking permit program for the 7200 block of Lindell. Initially the request was for half of the block, but the residents were able to obtain signatures for the entire block and requested amending the petition to include the entire block. Staff recommended approval.

There were no requests to speak. Commissioner Helderman made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to implement a residential parking permit



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plan for the 7200 block of Lindell and was seconded by Commissioner Tunstall. The motion carried unanimously.

c. 7000-7100 Block of Northmoor Drive Residential Parking Permit Petition

Mr. Tate introduced the petition request for a residential parking permit plan for the 7000-7100 block of Northmoor. He stated that 87% of residents had signed the petition and staff recommends approval.

Mr. Tad Dageford of 7052 Northmoor asked what the process would be moving forward. Chairman Hales explained that the recommendation would likely be presented to the City Council at the first meeting as an ordinance and would be read for the first time and then would be read a second and third time and voted on at the following meeting. Mr. Tate stated that it would likely take about two weeks for the installation of the signs and that the residents would be notified of the process of getting parking permits.

Chairman Hales asked if anything needed to be done to include the teachers at Lourdes as part of the residential parking permit as requested. Mr. Tate stated that staff would notify the teachers through Lourdes.

Commissioner Zornes made a motion to approve the recommendation of staff to implement the residential parking permit plan and was seconded by Commissioner Helderman. The motion was unanimously approved.

d. 7346 Forsyth – No Parking

Mr. Tate introduced the resident request to move the no sign to the east to prohibit parking just west of the driveway of 7346 Forsyth to address ongoing problems with parking at the edge of and in front of the driveway. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Zornes made a motion to approve the staff recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was unanimously approved.

e. Street Name Change – Ferguson Avenue

Mr. Tate introduced the request from Fatou Ellis to change the name of Ferguson Avenue to Ellis Avenue. He stated the request was initially requested in 2015 and did not go anywhere and is being brought back.

Mrs. Marie Ellis of 1140 Ferguson Ave. addressed the commission requesting the change in honor of her husband, who was a veteran of the United States Army who passed away in October of 2013. She stated he was very influential in the neighborhood, to children, and to Pershing Elementary. She asked that the name change honor Mr. Ellis by all those who travel down that street.



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Chairman Hales asked for discussion and stated that he would like to have a better briefing from staff on the process for changing a street name. Commissioner Zornes stated that he thought the petitioners request was reasonable but had questions about the process.

Mr. Tate asked Mrs. Ellis if her daughter had completed all of the steps provided in the procedure that was provided to her. Mrs. Ellis indicated they had not. Mr. Tate stated there are a number of steps required to change the name of a street and Ferguson would be a major street name change. Mr. Tate stated he would contact her again and offer assistance with the process.

Commissioner Zornes stated concern over the language in number 3 of the procedure regarding the petition process and commented on its lack of clarity.

Chairman Hales read the letter from former Staff Liaison Angelica Gutierrez to Ms. Ellis that was included in the packet. He stated that it appeared staff had already gone through the process of defining the affected area and questioned why the commission was being asked to define the affected area. He stated that there is nothing in the Traffic Commission Bylaws or Ordinances that provide a process for changing a street name. The residential parking permit ordinance does outline the process for obtaining signatures and defining the affected area.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that his understanding was that the Traffic Commission always determined the affected households and in the past had preferred to make that determination before the process can start. He stated he wanted to make sure that the affected households as determined by the staff were acceptable to the commission.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if there were any residents who do not agree with the proposal. He stated this was a major change would affect all residents who would have to order new checks. Mr. Alpaslan agreed this would be major change for residents.

Chairman Hales stated that he did some research in the city code about street names and changing street names and stated the only thing he could find was Chapter 405.450 under Street Design Standards under Article 7, Land Development Standards. He read 4.a which states proposed through streets, which are continuation of, or in general alignment with, existing streets shall bear the names of such existing streets. He read 4b. which states except as required under subsection 4a, the name of a proposed street shall not duplicate the name of any existing or platted street within St. Louis County. He noted that there is an Ellis Avenue in Maplewood and suggested with all the questions surrounding a street name change, that the commission might want to get feedback from the City Attorney as to whether the proposed street



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name change was even possible and stated he wasn't comfortable proceeding in anyway until those questions were addressed.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that he agreed that this request does not conform to the street design standards.

Commissioner Mishkin questioned whether this request really falls on the commission. He thanked Mrs. Ellis for her husband's service and suggested some other way of commemorating Mr. Ellis through signage. Mr. Alpaslan stated that staff would research other options. Mr. Tate stated he would research it and get back with Mrs. Ellis.

Chairman Hales asked if there was any feedback from the Police and Fire Departments. Sgt. Whitley stated that there was no feedback.

Chairman Hales asked if there was any further discussion or any action to be taken.

Commissioner Zornes stated that he believed staff was asking the commission to take action, but he believed that staff should look into the request further and come back to the commission with more information.

Commissioner Mishkin asked when the last time a street name was changed. Mr. Alpaslan stated it was Sgt. Mike King Drive, but it was not a residential street. Commissioner Mishkin asked when before that was a street name changed. Chairman Hales stated that he thought it might have been when Berlin Ave. was changed to Pershing Ave. Commissioner Mishkin stated he was interested in the circumstances for the requested change.

Chairman Hales stated that staff had asked the commission to determine the next steps and he thought the commission does not know what those steps are. Chairman Hales stated again that he thinks a legal opinion would be needed to know if the request is even possible.

Chairman Hales asked Councilman Smotherson if he had any input since most of the area is in his ward. Councilman Smotherson stated he believe the commission was proceeding in the right way to get its questions answered and asked if the procedure has been followed to get the approval of Pagedale for the name change as outlined in the procedure document.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if we knew the financial burden that owners would face if the name were to be changed.

Chairman Hales stated that the letter from Ms. Gutierrez defines the affected area, but does not specify the number of signatures required.



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f. Street Name Change – Paramount Avenue

Mr. Tate presented the proposed street name change of Paramount Drive to Rev. Joe L. Middleton Lane. He stated that this request is much different as it the street is just one block long. He recommended a recommendation to follow the process.

Ms. Mildred Pettiford of 8333 Fullerton Ave. addressed the commission on behalf of The City of Life Christian Church. She stated she had submitted the request for the change and asked what the number of signatures would be required. She stated she had support from the Superintendent of the University City School District as well as support of both 3rd ward councilmen. She stated she needed an understanding of what percentages of signatures were required to take the next steps.

Councilman Rod Jennings of 1412 Purdue addressed the commission about his support for the name change. He stated that the church members reached out to him and he was very much in favor of the proposed change and agreed that this was a much different request from the Ferguson request.

Councilman Smotherson added that he supported the change if the petition indicates that at least 70 to 75% of the neighbors were in favor. He stated he was familiar with this because his father was honored with a street name change on Walton Avenue at Delmar.

Commissioner Mishkin stated that this procedure shouldn't be any different from the last procedure, but he didn't know what the process should be. Mr. Tate stated he would like the commission to determine the affected area. Commissioner Mishkin asked what happens if 2 people on the block are not in favor. Mr. Tate stated he would request a legal opinion on that.

Commissioner Zornes stated that he believed the commission needed clarification from staff on the procedure before proceeding.

Chairman Hales stated he agreed with Councilman Jennings that this request is much different from the Ferguson request and much cleaner. He stated that he would be interested in the City Council's feedback on what the required percentage of signatures should be for a requested street name change. He also asked what the procedure was in the past.

Mr. Smotherson stated that when his neighborhood was asked for a petition to close a street, they were asked for 70% approval and all of the residents had to pay costs associated with erecting the barrier.

Commissioner Mishkin stated there would be costs to the homeowners related to the change of a street name.



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Ms. Pettiford asked again for clarity for the percentage of signatures required in order to move forward and they have a date in mind they would like to accomplish this by which she indicated was June 1, 2018. She stated she did already have a petition and had 14 signatures out of 27. She again asked for a number of signatures required.

Commissioner Helderman asked to be corrected if he was wrong, but stated his understanding was that staff tells the commission what the required percentage is. He asked if the commission can decide what that percentage is. Chairman Hales stated that he believed the only thing codified requiring a petition is the residential parking permit ordinance which requires 75% approval; he stated the commission has used that percentage in other applications. He stated he was surprised there was not a codified process for changing the name of the street name. Commissioner Helderman agreed.

Commissioner Zornes stated he thinks the commission needs a recommendation from the Council and the City Attorney.

Commissioner Mishkin thanked Ms. Pettiford for coming and that she's done terrific work and to continue to do so. Ms. Pettiford asked if this would be on the agenda for next month. Chairman Hales asked that it be on the agenda for the next month. Mr. Tate confirmed it would be added to the next agenda and he would receive a legal opinion.

g. 6600-6800 Kingsbury – No Charter Buses

Mr. Tate introduced a resident request to restrict charter buses on Kingsbury Blvd. He stated there has been a problem with Washington University Students chartering buses that travel into the neighborhood, often idling for long periods of time.

Petitioner Janet Pierson of 6803 Kingsbury addressed the commission and stated she's lived at her property for 25 years. She stated she first started dealing with the issue in 1998 working with Councilman Bob Wagner. She stated that buses will often idle for long periods of time, sometimes blocking the street. She stated the real problem is noise. She states that they often arrive at 9, 10 or 11pm and return at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning after taking students out. Initially she stated they tried to address the issue through the noise ordinances. She stated she wants to prohibit buses from going south of Washington. She stated that signage on Washington prohibiting buses from travelling south of Washington, it would solve the problem. She said her purpose is to find a real remedy to the ongoing problem.



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Chairman Hales asked Ms. Pierson was requesting that buses be restricted from idling or from travelling south of Washington. Ms. Pierson stated she wanted to restrict buses south of Washington.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if this request was inclusive of school buses. Ms. Pierson stated that her concern was not school buses, but that the issue was with charter buses late at night loading and unloading 50 to 100 students.

Chairman Hales asked if that one solution of banning buses south of Washington would solve the issue in her mind. Ms. Pierson said yes.

Ms. Cirri Moran of 6652 Kingsbury lives across the street in a single family home and has lived there for 50 years. She stated the buses are a problem, but the problem is not limited to buses. She stated there is also a problem with commercial trucks which have recently been using Kingsbury to deliver food to restaurants in the Loop. She stated it is a recent phenomenon but is a growing problem. She stated that these are residential streets, the north side owned by the city and the south side owned by Ames Place and they were not designed for these types of vehicles and will tear up the street. Regarding the buses, she stated that they have problems calling UCPD and being told to call Wash U police who tell them to call UCPD.

Sgt. Whitley stated that if that happens again when calling the UCPD, to ask to speak to a watch commander. He recommended the Washington was a better street to accommodate larger buses.

Chairman Hales asked if the city has an ordinance restricting commercial vehicles in residential areas. Sgt. Whitley stated not to his knowledge. Chairman Hales asked if staff could look into that type of ordinance.

Mr. Tate stated there are truck restrictions for certain roads.

Cheryl Edelstein from Washington University addressed the commission in support of the request. She stated that she initially supported the request to restrict loading and unloading. She stated the University has requested residents call Washington University Police Dispatch because they have 2-3 officers in these neighborhoods on the weekends. When calls for buses come in, their officers locate the buses, speak to the drivers and try to find out what student ordered the bus so that the university can reprimand the student. She said they ask the bus driver not return to the location. She said other than a noise violation, there's nothing to keep buses out of the neighborhood and the bus drivers do not want to break the law. She stated the University has very strict rules on party buses and registered student groups must follow their rules and come and go from the University. She stated that she would rather have the students on a bus than driving drunk and since the University owns a number of buildings on Washington, she supported directing the buses on to Washington and also suggested using Loop South.



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Chairman Hales stated that the staff recommendation is that the commission determine an affected area for a petition to restrict buses. He stated that he would like to know what staff's recommendation is as to what the solution should be.

Commissioner Zornes asked what our ordinances provide for. Chairman Hales stated that the only thing that the commission is required to obtain petitions for is the residential parking permit plan as codified by ordinance. He stated the commission is free to make recommendations to the council on whatever issues that come before the commission. He stated this was not an instance that he believed requires a petition to try to address the problem. He asked what he stated he believe Commissioner Zornes was asking: what ordinances does the city have that the commission can look at to try to address the problem.

Commissioner Zornes stated he's like staff to come back to the commission with a recommendation of proposed signage to solve the problem.

Commissioner Mishkin stated that an ordinance would be required to place signs restricting certain traffic.

Mr. Tate stated that there is no ordinance restricting buses.

Mr. Smotherson stated he would like to see staff talk to Washington University and present a recommendation to the Traffic Commission with the recommended solution to the problem.

Chairman Hales asked if the commission could be presented with options for this issue at the next meeting. He asked what options are there for restricting buses and what options there are for restricting commercial vehicles from traveling through the neighborhood to make commercial deliveries.

Commissioner Mishkin stated that the he believes the problem will only get worse once the trolley begins service.

Chairman Hales asked if it would be possible for staff to come back to the commission with potential solutions for the commission to act on.

Commissioner Zornes made a recommendation that staff look at whether we have ordinances to address both issues. If not, he asked what needs to be done to address it.

Chairman Hales made a motion that we ask staff to explore the options of an ordinance restricting charter buses from a street and an ordinance restricting commercial vehicles from the residential areas except for local residential



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deliveries.

Mr. Tate stated he would work with the University and also look at the codes in other municipalities.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the commission could get data from the police department about the number of complaints of party buses.

Ms. Moran stated she had a long list of documentation of complaints, phone calls and emails.

Commissioner Zornes seconded Chairman Hales' motion. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Kingsland Walk Senior Living Facility

Chairman Hales asked Cirri Moran, Chairperson of the Plan Commission if she would stay to address the commission on this agenda item. Chairman Hales introduced Ms. Moran.

Cirri Moran informed the commission that the first time the proposal came to the Plan Commission, the proposed parking was inadequate. The Plan Commission approved a revised plan that included an increase in onsite parking from 21 to 24.

Paul Boyer of Civil Engineering Design Consultants addressed the commission about the proposal and described their process. He stated the facility would be very low intensity usage in terms of traffic.

Commissioner Zornes asked if there are 19 employees, would they all be there at the same time. Mr. Boyer states there could be 19 maximum during a shift change. Commissioner Zornes stated that his only concern was whether it met the city's parking requirements. Ms. Moran confirmed that he revised plans do.

Mr. Tate asked if the Traffic Commission would like to see the final plans once St. Louis County has reviewed. Mr. Boyer stated that the County had approved the right-in/right-out on Kingsland and the full access off Vernon. He also stated that they intend to create a median to prevent left turns from Kingsland. Chairman Hales stated that unless there are major changes to the plans, he did not think it would be necessary to come back to the commission for further review.

Commissioner Zornes made a motion to accept the plans as provided unless there are any material changes to be made. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mishkin and unanimously approved.



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i. Bicycles in the Loop (Update)

Chairman Hales introduced the update on Bicycles in the Loop. He stated that at the previous council meeting, Kevin Barbeau presented the council with the packet provided to the commission before the meeting.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that Mr. Barbeau's proposal focuses on pavement markings and signage and advising riders of a sustainable route diverting to Eastgate to Enright and subsequently Loop North. He stated that the City Council comments to the Loop Trolley Company was previously not to come back to council with suggestions of just pavement markings and signage and that is what they did. He stated that he did work with the Loop Trolley Company to try to come up with solutions and they did come up with the 60 degree crossing recommendation. He stated the dangerous and risky areas are where the trolley tracks shift to the platforms. Mr. Alpaslan stated that when this was first proposed, he wanted an engineer's review and stamp on it. He stated the 60 degree crossing markings direct the bicycles into the path of vehicles in the traffic lane and vehicles will need to be aware of that. He stated that he wanted something from Loop Trolley Company that was vetted from a road engineer to validate that the proposal was a viable solution. He stated it had not been approved by an engineer.

Chairman Hales stated that he recalled Commissioner Zornes asking Mr. Barbeau to get with city staff and come back to the commission. He stated that thought Mr. Barbeau should probably come back to the commission because there are still a number of questions and concerns raised by the commission to be answered and he didn't believe the commission was likely finished with the bicycles in the Loop issue. Chairman Hales asked Mr. Alpaslan if he was not satisfied with the proposal from the Loop Trolley Company. Mr. Alpaslan stated that he is not satisfied and there are an increasing number of incidents involving bicycles that concerns everyone and the City Council was rightly concerned and acted on it.

Chairman Hales asked if there has been any discussion with Loop Trolley Company about track inserts and asked if there was any viability of using track inserts just at the points where the track encroaches to the area on the right where most bicycles would travel. He suggested bicycles could be directed to yield to the trolley at those points. Mr. Alpaslan stated that according to the Loop Trolley Company, the inserts do not work, heave up, and provide additional hazards. Chairman Hales stated he could understand the Loop Trolley Company taking that position, having just asked for \$500,000 from St. Louis County, but asked if anyone has independently corroborated that claim. Mr. Alpaslan stated it had not been independently checked and stated that it is the Loop Trolley Company's rail and it would have to work with their rail and cars and they stated it is not a feasible solution per their standards. Chairman Hales asked what their standards are because at a previous meeting, the commission discussed what their standards would be



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relating to safety and the distance maintained between the trolley and other traffic. He also stated that surely the Loop Trolley Company is not the only trolley in existence with this type of rail and this type of cars and wheels and asked if what they are telling us is correct. He stated he'd like to know from someone other than the Loop Trolley Company whether the inserts are not viable.

Commissioner Mishkin agreed and indicated that this issue is not going away.

Chairman Hales asked for clarification that the Loop Trolley Company is proposing bicycles cross into the Trolley's path where the track shifts. Mr. Alpaslan confirmed.

6. Council Liaison Report

None

7. Miscellaneous Business

A. Purcell and Etzel No Through Street

Mr. Tate provided an update that the speed trailer data does not support the position that there is a problem with excessive speed in the neighborhood and that both the Police and Fire Chiefs do not support the proposed closure.

Chairman Hales asked if there was a separate staff recommendation on the proposal. Mr. Tate stated he had several other options to consider with the petitioner.

Joseph Mosby of 1086 Colby addressed the commission and stated that the residents still want the streets closed. He stated that he was under the assumption that with the 75% of the signatures, which he has, that the street could be closed.

Mr. Tate stated the police chief and city manager had to approve the closure and they reviewed the traffic data and it does not support the claims made to warrant the closure.

Mr. Mosby asked what options are available. Mr. Tate stated there are other traffic calming options.

Chairman Hales stated that he sought a closure of his street many years ago and it was not supported by the police and fire department.

Mr. Mosby asked how previous street closures have been accomplished. Mr. Tate stated that each street is looked at on a case by case basis.



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Mr. Alpaslan asked if a one way street option might work to improve the situation. Mr. Mosby states that traffic speeds on the street in both directions.

Chairman Hales asked if the commission could receive a written explanation from the police and fire departments.

Sgt. Whitley stated the police will continue to run enforcement as often as requested, but stated that they have not observed a speeding issue on the street and indicated their street was a major street for emergency services to respond.

Chairman Hales stated he did not think the commission would take any action on this tonight and he would like to receive the feedback from the police and fire department, but noted that the commission did just receive the petition at the meeting.

Mr. Smotherson asked if the commission takes no action, would it come to the council and asked what the recommendations of the police and fire chief mean to the petition because the residents are very clear about what they want.

Chairman Hales suggested Mr. Mosby and Mr. Smotherson speak with the Police and Fire Chiefs.

Commissioner Stewart stated that he would have a hard time voting on the issue without having a written recommendation from both the police and fire chiefs.

Chairman Hales stated he would support tabling this issue until the next meeting when the commission has a recommendation from the police and fire departments.

Commissioner Stewart agreed and stated he may support the closure, but he would like the recommendations.

Chairman Hales also asked for a recommendation from Public Works. He stated that typically when the commission is asked for a recommendation, the commission has a recommendation from Public Works, from the Police Department and from the Fire Department. He stated that those three recommendations weigh significantly into the commission making a recommendation as a body.

Mr. Tate asked to put on record that staff had not received the petition prior to the meeting.



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Chairman Hales stated that he was not expecting the petition or to take a vote that night.

B. Multifamily Building Parking

Chairman Hales suggested postponing Miscellaneous Business items B & C be postponed until the October meeting. Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to postpone discussion of the Multi-Family Vehicle Parking and Compact car agenda items to the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helderman. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Compact Car

Postponed until October Meeting

D. Draft Letter to Council – (process and role of the commission)

Chairman Hales introduced the letter which he presented to the commission at the previous meeting. He stated that he has notice over his time on the commission an inconsistency with the process and how things are handled. At the July meeting, the commission was told the Kingsland Walk proposal was to be brought back at the next meeting for approval. He stated it was on the agenda for approval at the last City Council meeting and Mr. Smotherson made a motion to remove it until it could come back to the Traffic Commission and it was removed by a vote of 6-1. He stated that it reminded him very much of how the Loop Trolley process was handled which is what the proposed letter to the Council is about as well as the important of the role and process of the commissions. He stated that the roles of city commissions and the role of the Traffic Commission is very important since the Traffic Commission deals with more of the city code than just about any other commission. Chairman Hales stated he would like to send the proposed letter to council just as the Human Relations Commissions sent a letter to the council at the last council meeting. He stated the letter asks the council to reaffirm their commitment to our city boards and commissions and their roles in the process. He stated he was happy accept any amendments or feedback to the letter, but asked for the support of the commission in sending the letter to the council.

Commissioner Stewart asked if Chairman Hales was asking for a motion to send the letter to the council. Chairman Hales stated that is what he was requesting.

Commissioner Helderman stated he did his due diligence and that when he read the letter after the last meeting, he did not take it at face value. He stated he went back through the commission and council meeting minutes and that the letter is a pretty accurate reflection of the timeline he put together and it was unfortunate, because there were a number of important points and concerns raised by the traffic commission that were



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not considered, taken into account, or answered or dealt with at all. He stated that the point of the commission is to make recommendations, then they should be considered and it's a pretty important part of the process. He stated the body of the letter is pretty spot on.

Commissioner Tunstall stated that we are servants of our community and what the letter says is that we should be allowed to perform the duties that we are expected to do and should consider our recommendations before making a decision. He stated all we are trying to do is make the right decisions that will be good for our city.

Chairman Hales stated that before current member was serving on the commission, the commission was addressing the right concerns. He stated the answers to their questions were never provided, they were not asked to make a recommendation to council and somehow the Loop Trolley plans and design were sent to council and approved. He stated that the issues that this commission has been dealing with related to bicycle safety problems and the Trolley were completely preventable. Ultimately, he said the responsibility falls on both the City Manager and the Council to recognize the importance of the role of the commission in the process because we cannot afford for what happened with the Loop Trolley to happen again. Had the process been followed, he said, we wouldn't be where we are today. He stated that he feels it's important that the Council understand how we got here and that this was avoidable and we need to pay attention to the roles and functions of our commission. He stated the commission members at the time absolutely caught the concerns and problems that the commission today is dealing with.

Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to approve the letter to be taken by Mr. Smotherson to the council. Commissioner Helderman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Adjournment.

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Chairman & Secretary