



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 10, 2014

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, Chairwoman Carol Wofsey called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. In addition to Chairwoman Wofsey, the following members of the commission were present:

- Robert Warbin
- Jeff Hales
- Jackie Womack
- Eva Creer
- Curtis Tunstall

Also in attendance:

- City Engineer, Sinan Alpaslan
- Councilmember Stephen Kraft
- Public Works and Parks Liaison, Angelica Gutierrez
- Police Department Representative P.O. Shaun Margul

Absent (excused):

- Traffic Commissioner Mark Barnes

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Womack and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for the November 12, 2014 meeting

Mr. Warbin moved to approve the minutes as originally written. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Hales presented substantial amendments to the minutes at the time of the meeting.

There was a discussion about Mr. Hales' requested amendments. Dr. Warbin indicated that he would like to know if Robert's Rules offers any guidance as to how minutes should be recorded. He noted that the majority of the requested amendments dealt more with the deliberation of the commission and indicated that he thought deliberation is less important than the votes taken on motions and would like to look into it.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that she did not believe that Robert's Rules offer much guidance as to the recording of minutes and she preferred the minutes to be shorter.

Mr. Hales explained that his proposed amended minutes were of the same level of detail as the July 9, 2014 minutes. He noted the removal of the detail of the discussion in the minutes coincided with the removal of the audio from commission meetings and that he felt that it is important that a record be kept of the deliberations of the commission so that it is



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known to the council, to the public and so that there is a reference for future traffic commissions to understand what this commission considered in making a recommendation. He indicated that without a record of the discussions that took place, all we have is the vote that was taken and that does not provide the public, future commissions or the Council of what took place. He also noted that in the October Traffic Commission meeting, Councilman Kraft reminded the commission of the importance of the commission's minutes because of the legal ramifications of the commission's recommendations. Mr. Hales said that he did not understand why the commission's minutes have been so dramatically reduced.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that she believed the minutes had been dramatically reduced because the city as a policy matter has instructed its staff to shorten the minutes for all commission and boards.

Mr. Hales stated that in October meeting, the Commission's council liaison told the commission that it was up to the commission as to how the commission wanted to record its minutes. Mr. Hales indicated that he was not informed that there was going to be a change to how the minutes were kept and that the commission never discussed it.

Mr. Hales made a motion to amend the minutes as presented.

Chairwoman Wofsey said that she didn't think that procedurally a motion could be made to amend the minutes with a motion on the floor.

Mr. Kraft indicated that he did previously say that the commission could decide to record, meaning make a recording, but gave no opinion on recording minutes.

Mr. Hales said he had revisited the audio from that meeting and what he took from Mr. Kraft's statement was that the traffic commission minutes are longer than most commissions and that is a decision that the commission makes.

Mr. Kraft indicated that was correct and usually changes to the minutes are made in advance, not one minute before the meeting starts. He noted that the commission had spent 20 minutes going over the minutes and discussing their length. He indicated that if the commission wants to spend its time arguing over the minutes, it can, but not to misquote him.

Mr. Hales stated that he had not misquoted Mr. Kraft.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that she found the description of what Mr. Wilson said in the proposed amended minutes to be problematic and would not be ready to vote on the amended minutes that evening. Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that we had a motion on the floor and that she thought the commission should vote that up or down.

Mr. Hales asked if, procedurally, he was not allowed to make a motion to amend the minutes after a motion has been made.



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Mr. Kraft indicated that a motion may be made to amend the minutes with a second but that the Chair could rule that substantively it is such a large motion that it's really not an amendment.

Chairwoman Wofsey suggested that we table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting so that we can get clarification on how the minutes should be recorded.

Mr. Womack noted that he didn't understand why there was a sudden change either.

Mr. Warbin moved to postpone the approval of the minutes of the November 12, 2014 until the next Traffic Commission meeting scheduled for January 14, 2015. Motion was seconded by Ms. Creer and unanimously approved.

Agenda Items:

A. Stop Sign on Lafon Place at Gay Ave

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from David Bishop to install a "Stop" sign on Lafon Place at Gay Avenue. Due to geometry of the intersection and the obstructed sightline at the northeast corner of the intersection sight visibility, City Staff recommends approval of this installation.

Officer Marqul noted that in the last three years there have been no accidents at this intersection.

Mr. Warbin indicated that he drove through the intersection today and that he thought it was difficult to tell based on how the roads were set up, who has the right-of-way.

Mr. Warbin moved to approve the requested stop sign on Lafon Pl at Gay Ave. The motion was seconded by Mr. Womack and unanimously approved.

B. Parking restriction on Pershing Ave east of Midvale Ave

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from Robert and Sarah Elgin to prohibit parking on the north side of Pershing Avenue, between the signalized crosswalk and Midvale Avenue. City Staff recommends restricting parking as requested to for safety reasons enhance visibility at the intersection.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that when she drove by, the gates to the subdivision were closed and asked what the policy was regarding the gates.

Mr. Kraft said that the gates to University Hills should alternate but because of construction in the neighborhood the gates have not recently been closed as much.



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Mr. Warbin noted that because of the nature of the roads, traffic from both Pershing and the Parkway exiting on to Pershing can pose a danger to drivers trying to turn left out of Midvale Drive on to eastbound Pershing.

Mr. Warbin moved to approve the parking restriction on the north side of Pershing Ave between Midvale Ave and the crosswalk to the east. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hales and unanimously approved.

C. Parking restriction on Midland Ave north of Delmar Blvd

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from a daily commuter to prohibit parking on the west side of Midland Ave from 7 am to 9 am every day of the week.

The City had a signed restriction on the west side of Midland Ave between Princeton Ave and Delmar Blvd, to allow 1-hour Parking from 9AM to 5PM. This restriction is included in the City's Traffic Code.

The vehicles parked on Midland Blvd impeded the normal flow of south bound traffic during morning peak hour, for both left and right turns onto Delmar Blvd.

St. Louis County has jurisdiction over Midland Blvd and any regulations related to traffic and parking needs to be approved by the County Council. The 1-hour parking restriction was not incorporated in the County's Traffic Code, therefore was not a legal regulation.

St. Louis County forces recently removed the "1-hour parking 9AM – 5PM" sign, and installed a "No Parking any time", to correct the field conditions and to be in line with the County's Traffic Code.

St. Louis County staff recommended revising the City's Traffic Code to follow the County's parking regulation which is a corner clearance. The purpose of the restriction is to keep a standard sight distance and safety at the intersections.

City Staff recommends following St. Louis County's instruction to restrict parking along Midland Blvd between Princeton Avenue and Delmar Blvd at all times, and remove the 1-hour parking regulation from the City's Traffic Code. The parking restriction is to enhance traffic flow, especially during morning peak hour.

Chairwoman Wofsey said she regularly drives this stretch of Midland and believes that the parked cars present a danger.

Mr. Womack moved to approve the elimination of the 1-hour parking restriction on the West side of Midland Ave between Delmar Blvd and Princeton Ave. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hales and unanimously approved.



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Council Liaison Report

Councilmember Kraft reported that the Loop Trolley Project bids are all in and the owner will provide an update on December 27, 2014.

Miscellaneous Business

Traffic Commission meetings will be recorded by a member of the Traffic Commission.

Chairwoman Wofsey discussed the email sent to City Manager Lehman Walker requesting that staff continue to record the traffic commission meetings and Mr. Walker's response that the commission members were free to record the meetings themselves. She indicated that she had a brief phone call with the City Manager in which he indicated that as far as he was concerned it's a policy matter and that staff is not going to be making recordings.

Mr. Womack asked if the Traffic Commission is the only commission to no longer be recorded and asked why the recordings were being stopped now.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that all recordings of commission meetings have stopped and she did not know why as to the timing.

- Police Officer Margul reported that Speed Trailer is now functioning and was deployed to the Lafon PI and Gay Ave intersection.

Mr. Hales had a follow-up on Mr. Womack's first comment and asked why have the recordings been discontinued and why has there been no explanation as to why the recordings have been discontinued. He urged his fellow commissioners to go back through our previous meeting minutes and look at how they were prepared, and noted they have always been very detailed as it relates to the discussion that takes place, noting that the July meeting minutes included the Chair's announcement that there would be no August meeting. He indicated that he was troubled that the commission no longer has recordings of the meetings and now the commission has minutes that are being prepared with a far different standard he had observed in his year and a half serving on the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm

Minutes prepared by Angelica Gutierrez, Public Works and Parks Department and Amended by Commissioner Jeff Hales as underlined throughout the document.