



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 November 12, 2014

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 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:

- 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
- Director of Public Works and Parks, Rich Wilson

Absent (excused):

- Police Department Representative P.O. Shaun Margul
- Traffic Commissioner Mark Barnes

Others present were:

- Mike Jackson, 719 Harvard
- Patrick Reilly, 7015 Lindell Ave

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Wofsey requested to add to the agenda under miscellaneous business, the lack of tape recording of the Traffic Commission meetings. Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Womack and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for the July 9, 2014 meeting

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creer and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for the October 8, 2014 meeting

Mr. Hales moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tunstall and unanimously approved.

Agenda Items:

A. Olive Blvd and Hanley Road “No right turn on red” restriction



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Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from MoDOT to provide an ordinance to support the prohibition of the right turns on red at Hanley Rd (northbound) and Olive Blvd intersection. The warrant for the prohibition is the lack of visibility while turning right on Olive and the street grade limitations. MoDOT recommends implementation of this regulation, and City staff agrees with that recommendation. There have been 93 accidents reported at this intersection over the past three years, but there is not any data as to how many were related to right turns on red at this location.

Mr. Warbin moved to approve the requested No Right on Red restriction on Olive Blvd at Hanley Road northbound. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tunstall. A brief discussion took place about the need for the restriction due to safety. Mr. Hales requested that Staff inquire information about the length of the cycle for left turns from Hanley to Olive on both directions, since they appear to be unnecessarily long. Motion was unanimously approved.

B. Big Bend and Lindell Blvd “No Left turn” restriction

Ms. Gutierrez presented the request from St. Louis County to provide an ordinance to support a left turn prohibition preexisting at the intersection of Lindell Avenue and Big Bend Blvd. The University City traffic code contains certain regulations for this intersection, but no regulation currently exists to restrict left turns as prohibited by the already existing signage. Due to the grade and visibility obstructions City staff recommends approval of the prohibition. There have been 4 accidents reported at this intersection over the past three years.

Dr. Warbin moved to approve the requested Left Turn Prohibition from Lindell Avenue to Big Bend Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Mr. Womack and unanimously approved.

C. Lindell Blvd Residential Parking Permit Change of Hours

Ms. Gutierrez introduced the item and asked the requestor to present the request.

Patrick Reilly, 7015 Lindell Avenue

Mr. Reilly was in attendance. Mr. Reilly explained the request to extend the hours of the residential parking permit system originally requested by his neighbor Joe Hopkins and approved several years ago, from 10 AM - 2 PM Monday to Friday, to 9 AM - 9 PM every day of the week (both sides of the street) from 7000 Lindell Ave. to 7034 Lindell Ave. The change in the hours of the restriction would match the hours of the existing residential parking restrictions on neighboring streets: Forsyth, Maryland and Westmoreland. Mr. Reilly believes that traffic and non-residential parking has increased within the last two (2) years, due to the Washington University recreational center located nearby and the Metro link customers parking needs.

A discussion took place about the limits of the restriction because the existing signage



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extended to 7038 Lindell which is beyond area listed in the existing code.

Dr. Warbin asked if the restriction should extend all the way to Asbury Blvd to include the entire 7000 block of Lindell because that would make it less likely that people further down the block would seek a petition for the rest of the block.

Mr. Hales suggested from his own experience in seeking residential permit parking that there is possibility that the residents further up the block may not be interested in extending the restrictions and suggested that the commission yield to the petitioner's requested area.

Mr. Hales asked if the existing signage that extends to 7058 was put up by the city or put up by residents.

Ms. Gutierrez was unsure if the signs were placed there by the city but indicated that they looked like city signs.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that she knew it to be a fact that residents living outside of the restricted area as defined in the city code as recent as a couple of years ago that did have permits on their cars, consistent with the signage.

Ms. Gutierrez informed the commission that it is easier for the Police Department to enforce a parking restriction on a full block as opposed to a partial block.

Mr. Womack asked and Mr. Reilly confirmed that the traffic and parking issues had increased in the last 1-2 years.

Mr. Tunstall expressed concern that by not extending the restriction if it would push the parking problem further down the block.

Mr. Reilly indicated that the problems were within the area of the existing restrictions.

Mr. Warbin asked if the commission should consider including the first houses immediately west of the proposed restriction area as part of the affected area for the petition since they would potentially be impacted as well.

Chairwoman Wofsey indicated that any existing signs outside of the restricted area as defined by the code would probably need to be taken down unless those residents wanted to be included in the residential permit parking area.

It was agreed that a new petition was necessary to change the original residential parking



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permit hours and in this case, extend the limits as follows: From 7000 Lindell Ave to one property to the west of 7038 Lindell Ave on both sides of the street.

Dr. Warbin moved to approve the requested petition to be submitted with signatures from 7000 Lindell Ave to one property to the west of 7038 Lindell Ave on both sides of the street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hales and unanimously approved.

D. FY 2014 Annual Report

Ms. Gutierrez provided an update on the Midland Blvd crosswalk request, and explained that St. Louis County is still working on the investigation in conjunction with Great Rivers Greenway, to create a safe pedestrian crosswalk on Midland Blvd.

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the final version of the Annual Report for FY2014. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creer and unanimously approved.

E. Discussion about Traffic Commission Recommendations

Mr. Hales presented the request to discuss the recommendations that are presented to City Council when City Staff and Traffic Commission are in disagreement. Mr. Hales noted that the July 14 Cover Letter to the City Council which contained the recommendations of staff and the dissenting recommendation from the Traffic Commission regarding the closure of Trinity Ave. was three pages in length. He noted that the staff's recommendation was very detailed and reasoned, but the Traffic Commission's recommendation produced by staff was just one paragraph and citing only a concern about parking in Civic Plaza. Mr. Hales suggested that while he thought it was exceedingly rare for staff and the Traffic Commission to disagree on recommendations, that in instances where there is disagreement that the Traffic Commission should consider writing its own recommendation to ensure that it's decision is presented in a way that represents all of the considerations made by the commission.

Mr. Womack noted that he could not recall this ever happening before.

Dr. Warbin discussed the sense of responsibility and civic duty that members of the Traffic Commission have to investigate, discuss, and debate issues and make recommendations to the City Council and that process should be respected and that any concern for the degree which any commissions are appreciated within the context of the process should be known.

Chairwoman Wofsey noted that she thought that the entire commission felt disrespected and she felt disrespected by the process taken by the administration.

Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works addressed the Traffic Commission and stated that he probably had not put enough effort or information in the Cover Letter presented to the City Council to present the Commission's recommendation and apologized. He indicated that he did not purposefully disrespect the commission and was just doing his job to convince



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the Council and that in the future, recommendations from the Traffic Commission and all other commissions would be adequately covered and given an equal presentation.

Council Liaison Report

No report provided

Miscellaneous Business

- Tape Recording of the Traffic Commission meetings

Chairwoman Wofsey initiated a discussion about the audio recording of Traffic Commission meetings following the administration's decision to stop making audio recordings of the meetings. She asked that the Traffic Commission meetings continue to be recorded because they are useful for the public as well as for commissioners to review when absent from meetings. Chairwoman Wofsey asked the commission to give her permission to draft a letter to the administration to request that Traffic Commission meetings continue to be audio recorded.

Mr. Tunstall agreed that making an audio recording was a good idea.

Mr. Hales agreed about the importance of recording the meetings particularly for the benefit of members who may be absent citing how often issues discussed in one meeting are carried over to future meetings.

Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works informed the commission that they are not entitled to direct staff and informed the commission they could make their own recordings, but that staff would not take direction from the commission.

Chairwoman Wofsey noted that she was not directing staff to make recordings but requesting that recordings continue to be made.

It was understood that the legal record of the meeting was the minutes and not the recording.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm

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