

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 7, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Kearns, City Council Member  
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer  
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mildred S. Jones, 717 Tawney Court, Champaign  
Linda Algee, 1209 Carver Drive, Champaign  
Kathryn Humphrey, 716 Tawney Court, Champaign  
Ulysses S. Gillon, 712 Bethune Court, Champaign  
Jim Kelly, Operations Division Manager  
Margaret Dalbey Ford, 1802 Crescent Drive, Champaign  
Joan Sheppard, Dean, Urbana High School  
Roger Scott, Dean, Urbana High School  
Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement  
Oscar Gamble, Urbana Police Department  
Glenn Berman, Engineering Division Manager  
Monroe Roberts, 803 Tawney Court, Champaign  
Charles Winfrey, 708 Bethune Court, Champaign  
Lucille Roberts, 803 Tawney Court, Champaign

Meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There was one addition to the agenda:

Discussion of parking on the south side of the street in the 100 block of West Iowa Street.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 2000.

**Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of no parking signs on Birch Street across from the driveway for 402 West High Street.**

Margaret Ford discussed the concerns her parents have about vehicles parking on the east side of Birch Street. She requested the removal of two parking spaces on Birch Street to provide easier access to her parents' driveway and to the alley nearby.

Glenn Berman stated that the Birch Street is 21 feet wide from Washington Street to Green Street. He said that he was concerned about eliminating parking in an area that is highly populated. Instead, he asked if the property owners would allow the City to pave an area between the property owner's driveway and the alley approach, remove the curbing, and replace the area as a driveway approach to allow the residents to make a sharper turn when backing out of the driveway and to provide an easier turning radius for people exiting the alley.

Ms. Ford expressed concern about motorists cutting even further into the parkway.

Mr. Berman stated that if motorists using the alley encroached onto private property at 402 West High, he would recommend installing a bollard or some other type of barrier. He recommended the City remove the curbing and install additional concrete to accommodate the property owner and users of the alley.

Jim Kelly stated that it would be placed on the construction list for the spring.

**Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of "No Parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m." signs in parking lot #40 and in the parking lot at the corner of Mathews Avenue and Nevada Avenue.**

Jim Kelly stated that he had contacted the University of Illinois to determine what the previous restrictions were in lot #40. He said that the 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. restrictions were previously in place and were consistent with the street restrictions in that area.

Joe Smith moved to install No Parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. signs in parking lot #40 and in the parking lot in the 800 block of South Mathews Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #3 - Discussion of the extension of yellow curb marking south on Curtiss Drive at Vermont Street.**

This item will be placed on the April Traffic Commission meeting agenda.

**Item #4 - Discussion of tow-away zone on the west side of Orchard Street between Elm Street and Green Street.**

This item will be discussed at the April Traffic Commission.

**Item #5 - Discussion of speeding vehicles in front of Prairie Elementary School, 2102 East Washington Street.**

Chief Adair stated that STEP enforcement will be assigned to this detail and the results will be discussed at the April Traffic Commission.

**Item #6 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs at Bradley Avenue and Goodwin Avenue.**

Mrs. Roberts discussed her concerns about speeding vehicles on Bradley Avenue. She was particularly concerned following an accident, which occurred on Monday, February 28, 2000. She stated that traffic drag races from I-74, down Lincoln Avenue and continues on Bradley Avenue. She asked the Commission to consider installing stop signs at Carver Drive and Bradley Avenue and Goodwin Avenue and Bradley Avenue.

Mr. Winfrey added that most of the speeding took place late at night. He asked if the police could patrol late at night.

Mrs. Jones stated that she has difficulty pulling onto Bradley Avenue from Carver Drive. She felt that a stop sign would slow traffic and allow her time to pull onto Bradley Avenue.

Chief Adair discussed the STEP program with the residents in attendance. He stated that STEP enforcement would continue in that area and that it would be assigned during the times suggested by the residents.

Joe Smith stated that he will be collecting data and coordinating with the City of Champaign to study traffic on Bradley Avenue.

Carolyn Kearns explained that a study must be completed before any determination can be made as to whether or not to install stop signs. She added that while the study was conducted, Chief Adair would have enforcement patrol Bradley Avenue.

Chief Adair stated that he would discuss this issue with Chief Becker of the Champaign Police Department.

Mrs. Roberts stated that residents of the Carver Park neighborhood had scheduled a meeting for March 15, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss concerns with the City of Champaign.

This item will be discussed after the study has been completed.

**Item #7 - Discussion of parking on the south side of the 100 block of West Iowa Street.**

Oscar Gamble stated that the Urbana School District would like to designate the diagonal parking in the 100 block of West Iowa Street as faculty only. He added that the school district would like to have the diagonal parking property turned over to them so they could enforce the parking restrictions and install signs stating "Faculty and Staff Parking Only." He asked for metered parking spaces for the parallel parking on the south side of Iowa Street between Race Street and the diagonal parking.

Mr. Scott stated that the neighborhood parking problem around the high school would be worse when the 36 student parking spaces currently located in the Urbana High School parking lot are removed. He added that every staff and faculty member was guaranteed a parking space in the school parking lot according to the union contract and grievances had been filed because the school did not have spaces available. He continued by stating that the school district was forced to create more spaces dedicated to staff parking.

Glenn Berman asked if any of the parking planned for the middle school would alleviate the parking problem for high school staff and faculty.

Mr. Scott stated that there were no additional spaces available in the middle school parking lot.

Mrs. Sheppard stated that parking at the middle school would be restricted during construction.

Mr. Berman pointed out that the City was concerned about another 36 students being forced to park on residential streets. He added that the City received complaints about parking.

Carolyn Kearns asked if the school district had considered restricting parking for students. She added that residents in the surrounding area had concerns about littering from students parking on the street.

Mr. Scott stated that the restrictions would be difficult to enforce. He added that he would be available if the City received any complaints from area residents concerning students' behaviors. He stated that Mrs. Sheppard and he monitor the parking lot on a regular basis.

Mrs. Sheppard stated that parking was a problem since the high school is a central meeting place for the Big 12 Conference and district meetings. She felt that the 12 diagonal parking spaces would help alleviate some of the parking problems.

Mr. Berman asked what plans the school district had to accommodate student parking. He added that residents in the area were concerned about this and the school district should consider some solutions, even if they were expensive.

Mrs. Sheppard stated that some of the houses to the west of the parking lot were owned by the school district. She added that district had plans to use the area as a parking lot at some later date.

Ms. Kearns stated that the school district should give priority to parking since there were not adequate spaces for faculty and staff. She stated that the school district needed to be responsible for providing parking.

Mr. Berman discussed a suggestion to install parking meters for on-street parking along the south side of Iowa Street between Race Street and the diagonal parking area. He added that the metered spaces would provide short-term parking for visitors to the high school. He asked that the metered spaces be discussed at a later date when residents of the area have an opportunity for input.

Officer Gamble agreed that the issue of the diagonal parking spaces was the more important issue, but he asked that the Commission keep the issue of metered parking open for future discussion.

Mr. Scott stated that he was also concerned about on-street parking when the high school was used as a polling place. He added that the school monitored the spaces to keep students from parking in the area designated for voters.

Mr. Berman stated that the City did not want to give up ownership of the diagonal parking property and asked if the City could delegate the authority to the school district so they can tow vehicles which were illegally parked can be towed.

Ms. Kearns suggested that the Legal Division be consulted to determine if the City can delegate authority to tow vehicles.

Joe Smith stated that there must be signage in the area before vehicles could be towed.

Mr. Scott stated that Leal Elementary School has permits so the faculty can park on the street.

Ms. Kearns stated that the City granted permission for the faculty to have special on-street parking permits for Leal School.

Mr. Berman stated that Bill Gray was resistant to issuing permits and would prefer signage to allow faculty and staff parking.

Ms. Kearns stated that the Legal Division would be consulted to determine jurisdiction to enforce parking.

Mr. Kelly suggested signage specify the restriction.

Mr. Berman suggested "Parking by Permit Only 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Violators Subject to Tow at Owner's Expense" signage.

Mr. Scott suggested installing two signs in the diagonal parking spaces.

Ms. Kearns requested that someone find out if Council approval was needed and if permits were issued, who would issue them.

Mr. Berman stated that he would ask the Legal Division for an opinion on how to proceed.

Mr. Smith stated that a leasing agreement needed to be drafted and that the Director of Public Works needed to approve temporary signage while the Legal Division and the City Council discuss the issue.

Mr. Scott asked if the Commission would consider the issue of parking meters during the April Traffic Commission meeting.

Ms. Kearns asked if Mr. Scott would ask the school board to move ahead on expanding the parking lot. She asked if the Urbana High School Student Senate might be involved in helping police the neighborhood to pick up trash.

Mrs. Sheppard stated that several organizations have helped with trash pickup. Officer Gamble stated that the Police Department had been working with the Legal Division to work on ways to deal with littering.

Mr. Scott asked that to be contacted if concerns are brought to the City.

This item will be on the April Traffic Commission agenda.

Eddie Adair moved that the diagonal parking on the south side of the 100 block of West Iowa Street be designated as "Faculty and Staff Parking," subject to legal interpretation.

Joe Smith seconded the motion

The motion passed 3-0.

**Item #8 - Discussion of STEP enforcement.**

Chief Adair discussed the STEP report for February. (See attached reports.) He added that STEP detail will continue on Bradley Avenue.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary