

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member  
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer  
Michael Bily, Assistant Chief of Police (for Eddie Adair, Chief of Police)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Hay, 1906 South Anderson  
Dave Malinsky, 1904 South Anderson  
Pat Pioletti, Public Facilities and Parking Manager  
Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Supervisor  
Morris Davis, Woodstone Townhouses, Manager

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda:

**Approval of Minutes:**

Joe Smith moved to approve of the minutes from August 2004. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Joe Smith assumed the chair.

**Item #1 - Discussion of the expansion of the parking meter zone on Elm Street.**

Pat Pioletti explained that the remodeling of the Urbana Free Library had moved the drop boxes from Elm Street to inside the south parking lot of the Urbana Free Library. He added that accessible parking spaces were also located within the south parking lot making those accessible spaces more convenient for library patrons than the spaces located on Elm Street. Mr. Pioletti requested that the areas previously designated as drop box locations, accessible parking spaces, and no parking along the south side of Elm Street between Race Street and Cedar Street be considered a metered parking zone.

Joe Smith stated that the area could be modified to add five more metered spaces.

Mr. Smith moved to remove the no parking restrictions on the south side of Elm Street and to expand the metered parking zone to include the area previously designated as accessible spaces

and drop boxes for the Urbana Free Library.

Mike Bily seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #2 - Discussion of speed study in the alley behind 608 South Cottage Grove Avenue.**

Shawn Crowley stated that she brought the issue of the home-based cab company to Community Development for their review to determine if there were any problems with locating the business in a residential area.

Joe Smith stated that it was very difficult to perform a speed study because the volume of traffic was very low. He requested that the issue be removed from the agenda until further information can be found.

**Item #3 Discussion of ordinance changes for parking near driveways.**

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved to the October Traffic Commission meeting.

**Item #4 Discussion of parking restrictions on Lierman Avenue south of Washington Street.**

Morris Davis requested that parking be removed on Lierman Avenue in front of the Woodstone Townhouses. He stated that parking lot renovations in the south parking lot would add 33 spaces that would easily accommodate the parking needs of those in the building. He added that there were school buses that unload in that area and the parked vehicles on the street contributed to congestion along the street. He mentioned a concern about illegal activities that have occurred in that area and hoped that the parking restrictions might reduce some of the problems with those activities.

Shawn Crowley stated that parking on the west side had created a safety concern with school buses loading and unloading in that area.

Joe Smith asked if visitor parking spaces would be provided in the newly constructed parking lot.

Mr. Davis responded that visitor spaces would be available.

Assistant Chief Bily asked if the restrictions would be a problem for the residents living on the east side of Lierman Avenue.

Mr. Davis did not believe that the restrictions would cause a problem for the residents since there were driveways that allow parking for those residents. He added that the parking lot should be completed and parking spaces assigned within three weeks.

Joe Smith said that he would prefer to wait until the parking lot was complete before restricting parking on the street. He requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the October Traffic Commission meeting. He asked that the manager of the units on the east side of Lierman Avenue be contacted to verify that the restrictions would not adversely affect those residents. He stated that he felt that the outcome would be positive, but he wanted input from as many in that area as possible.

**Item #5      Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Michigan Avenue at Smith Road.**

Joe Smith stated that Smith Road had not been completed at this time. He asked that this item be placed on a future agenda after the road was completed and that requests for the installation of stop signs at Rainbowview Drive and Country Squire Drive be included with this request.

*Milton Otto assumed the Chair.*

**Item #6      Discussion of parking restrictions on Harding Drive.**

Mary Hay discussed her concerns about parking in the area of Harding Drive, Anderson Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. She said that Harding Drive was a very narrow street that had bus traffic along with pedestrian traffic. She had concerns about the ability of emergency vehicles to travel on Harding Drive when vehicles were parked on both sides of the street. She stated that the apartment building had multiple occupants with cars that preferred to park on the street instead of within the complex. She noted that some motorists parked their vehicles on the street and used the street for storage while they ride the bus to other locations. She expressed concern about motorists parking their vehicles on the street in front of driveways.

Assistant Chief Bily asked if Ms. Hay had contacted the Police Department when vehicles blocked her driveway.

Ms. Hay stated that she had, but it happened almost every morning.

Joe Smith stated that part of the problem was that there were two and a half parking spaces on Harding. He said that when more than two vehicles tried to fit into those spaces they blocked driveways. He recommended lengthening the yellow curb to allow only two vehicles to park in that area. He noted that there was parking available on Anderson, but no one used the spaces

there. He recommended removing parking along the north side of Harding, but he added that the residents in the homes on the south side would probably have difficulty parking in front of their homes.

Ms. Hay felt that eliminating parking on the north side would be helpful.

Mary Hay and Dave Malinsky expressed concern about a vehicle parked along the street that had been there for a while.

Shawn Crowley stated that she would check the status to see if anything had been done about the vehicle and contact Ms. Hay with her findings.

Joe Smith requested more input from those living in that area. He asked Ms. Hay if she would circulate a petition to determine whether residents wanted the parking restrictions on the north side of the street and asked if she could bring that petition to the October Traffic Commission meeting. He added that he would discuss the operational concerns with the Urbana Fire Chief and Public Works Director before the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary