

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Becky Jones, Parking Enforcement
Stephen R. Frank, 303 West Main Street
Mike Kirby, 303 West Main Street
John Goldenstein, 303 West Main Street
Gary Gebauer, 2909 East Rutherford Drive
Carl Malmgren, 2906 East Rutherford Drive
Ed Holzhauer, 1505 East Main Street

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 accept the minutes as read. Eddie Adair seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the May 2005 and June 2005 meetings.

Item #1 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Lierman Avenue from Main Street to Hunter Drive.

Ed Holzhauer, a representative from Solo Cup Company, stated that Solo Cup Company had no objection to the proposed parking restrictions on Lierman Avenue.

Joe Smith explained that parking would be eliminated along Lierman Avenue from Main Street to Washington Street as part of the street improvement project. He added that the apartment manager for Woodstone Apartment had requested the elimination of parking on Lierman Avenue from Washington Street to Hunter Drive to reduce the congestion of vehicles along the west side of the street.

Parking is currently restricted along the east side of Lierman Avenue from Washington Street to Hunter Drive.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on both sides of Lierman Avenue from Main Street to Hunter Drive.

Gary Gebauer asked where Urbana Park District participants would be allowed to park.

Joe Smith stated that Champaign County would allow parking in the Champaign County Nursing Home and in other County parking lots.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2 - Discussion of no parking on Rutherford Drive.

Joe Smith explained that Rutherford Drive's street width was reduced to 25 feet from east of 2923 Rutherford Drive to the intersection of Rutherford Drive and East Beringer Circle as part of a development agreement. He added that the narrow road width required parking restrictions on at least one side of the street. He suggested that the restriction be placed on the north and west sides of the street because there were more driveways on that side of the street; thus, there was less available parking area on that side.

Carl Malmgren stated that he was concerned that any parking on that street would restrict the flow of two-way traffic, but that he realized the impact to the west of Rutherford Drive if all parking were to be eliminated from 2923 Rutherford Drive to the east.

Mr. Smith stated that parking would be restricted on only one side of the street at this time.

Mr. Malmgren asked that the parking restrictions be enforced.

Mr. Gebauer asked that the restrictions be reviewed if any further concerns arose.

Mr. Malmgren requested that off-street parking for the future condos be encouraged.

Dennis Roberts asked if there could be some type of off-street visitor parking made available.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the west and north sides of Rutherford Drive from 2923 Rutherford Drive to the intersection of East Beringer Circle.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to the Council for consideration.

Eddie Adair asked that Bill Gray be contacted to determine if the off-street parking would be possible.

Item #3 - Discussion of parking restrictions in the 300 block of West Main Street.

Becky Jones discussed concerns about vehicles parked out into the street and parked against traffic flow along the south side of Main Street in the 300 block.

Joe Smith noted that he had observed motorists double parking and parking against traffic flow while they entered the business in that block.

Stephen Frank explained that the service station setup of the building allowed vehicles to approach the business from either direction and customers were accustomed to that design. He added that there was not a natural traffic flow onto the site but that customers were not encouraged to park illegally. He stated that vehicles were not parked in the street nor were they parked against traffic flow after being serviced. He said that they would be willing to ask customers to park correctly.

Ms. Jones suggested that white lines be painted on the street in front of the pillars at 303 West Main.

Mr. Smith said that lines would help delineate where parking was permitted.

John Goldenstein questioned where the property lines were and where City right-of-way began.

Mr. Smith recommended that this item be moved to the August Traffic Commission agenda to allow the City's surveyor an opportunity to determine where the property lines were.

Mr. Smith stated that there were some curb areas in the 300 block of West Main Street where yellow curbing was missing, such as the curbing along the north side of the Strawberry Fields parking lot, by Allman's Auto Repair and by Piccadilly Beverage Shop.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking along the north side of Main Street from Springfield Avenue to Central Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

The issue of painting white lines in front of 303 West Main Street will be discussed at the August Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4 - Discussion of the policy to assign crossing guards.

This item will be postponed until the Urbana School Safety Committee discusses the issue at its next meeting.

Joe Smith explained criteria needed to be established to determine the best locations for school crossing guard assignments.

Item #5 - Discussion of bicycle crosswalks on Bradley Avenue at Goodwin Avenue and on Goodwin Avenue at Ellis Drive.

Joe Smith explained that the Goodwin Avenue bicycle path was completed. He added that striping for the project included the striping of crosswalks on Bradley Avenue at Goodwin Avenue and on Goodwin Avenue at Ellis Drive. He requested that the appropriate signage be installed to warn motorists of the pedestrian and bicycle crossings at those two locations.

Joe Smith moved to install pedestrian crosswalk signs at the intersections of Bradley Avenue at Goodwin Avenue and Goodwin Avenue at Ellis Drive.

Mr. Smith stated that pedestrian crosswalk signage would be used at these locations since the paths were multi-use paths, not paths specifically designated for bicycle use.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

No Council action is required for this item.

Eddie Adair presented the June 2005 STEP reports to the Traffic Commission. (See attached.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

The next meeting will be held August 2, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary