

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 3, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Aikman, Bread Company, 706 South Goodwin Avenue
Ermon Sullivan, 1702 South Race Street
William Sullivan, 1702 South Race Street
James P. Quisenberry, 209 Pell Circle

The meeting began at 4:02 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the March 2007 meeting as corrected.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking on Race Street, south of Florida Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the problem created during the morning peak hours for traffic traveling northbound on Race Street approaching Florida Avenue. He stated that the current configuration with parking on the east side of Race Street caused traffic to backup and motorists to drive to the west of the center lane to try to line up in the left turn lane. He said that the left turn lane length was 75 feet, but that current standards required it to be 125 feet in length. He added that the west side of Race Street had parking restrictions 125 feet from the intersection and requested that the east side mirror those restrictions. Mr. Smith asked that the left turn lane be increased by 50 feet to accommodate more vehicles during the peak hours of traffic so motorists would not have to cross the center line to queue in the left turn lane.

Dennis Roberts asked if the problem was only during the peak hours in the morning.

Joe Smith stated that it was, but that the left-turn lane length did not meet current standards.

Mike Bily discussed concerns from a resident at 101 Meadow Drive. He mentioned that she was opposed to parking restrictions to Meadow Drive.

Joe Smith stated that the restrictions should not impact Meadow Drive.

Mr. Sullivan said that he was concerned that the restrictions would extend to Meadow Drive. He stated that the proposed restriction would be acceptable since it would only extend the restriction to 125 feet and he would still have parking available along Race Street.

Mr. Aikman asked if the parking restriction could be set for a certain time of day to reduce the congestion at the intersection.

Joe Smith stated that if the current recommendation did not solve the problem, then establishing parking restrictions for certain times of the day would be considered.

Mike Bily said that the proposed restrictions were necessary to be in compliance with safety standards.

Mike Bily moved to increase parking restrictions along the east side of Race Street, south of Florida Avenue to 125 feet and to increase the left turn lane by 50 feet.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This will go to Council for consideration.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of expanding the loading zone on Goodwin Avenue, south of Oregon Street.

Ian Goldberg was unable to attend the meeting, but he had requested that the City convert part of a no parking area on Goodwin Avenue to expand the loading zone. As part of his request, the Traffic Commission would consider whether the no parking zone would extend to a length that would comply with the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code and increase the current loading zone along Goodwin Avenue. He requested the loading zone for pizza delivery trucks for a business located on Oregon Street.

Joe Smith discussed concern about reducing the visibility at the intersection. He stated that the current restriction was established to create more visibility since motorists were having difficulty seeing the stop sign at Oregon Street.

Scott Aikman said that he would prefer not to have vehicles parked in front of the Bread Company where a sidewalk café was located.

Joe Smith asked if metered space along Oregon Street could be rented since the store was located on that street. He said that a loading zone would not guarantee a parking space for specific vehicles, but renting a meter would.

Scott Aikman stated that he would prefer a loading zone for customers to pick up bread or coffee instead of having the loading zone for delivery vehicles. He felt the restriction would not benefit his customers.

Mike Bily stated that the loading zone would be difficult to enforce since it would be used after most restrictions ended. He added that he would like to hear from Mr. Goldberg.

Joe Smith stated that he would look at the measurement. He asked that Mr. Goldberg be encouraged to attend the May meeting to discuss the request in more detail.

Mr. Aikman said that he would not have a problem with the vehicles parking there if it was after 10 p.m., but before then would be undesirable for his customers.

Mike Bily asked that the item be deferred to the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held May 1, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary