

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Sadoris, 807 South Wabash Avenue
Robin Shaw, 803 East Michigan Avenue
Leslie H. Stratton, 305 East Florida Avenue

The meeting began at 4:02 p.m. Mike Bily assumed the chair in Mr. Roberts' absence.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the corrected minutes of the March 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

New Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions on Lynn Street, Wabash Avenue, and Webber Street from Washington Street to Oregon Street.

Mike Bily explained that discussions about parking restrictions on Urbana Avenue, Maple Street and Grove Street were held last month. He added that the Traffic Commission would make a recommendation at the May 4th meeting of the Traffic Commission and that the City Council would make a decision about the parking restrictions after reviewing the Traffic Commission's recommendation.

Les Stratton explained that the Operations Division made the request for parking restrictions because the snow plows has difficulty clearing snow from these streets when cars were parked on both sides of the streets. He said that limiting parking to one side of the street allowed for more efficient snow removal.

Helen Sadoris stated that she had difficulty getting in and out of her driveway with the cars parked near her driveway. She said that she favored the restrictions. She asked which side of the street would be restricted.

Joe Smith stated that he would look at each street to determine which side most cars parked along and then make the restrictions on the side where the least number of vehicles parked.

Mike Bily recommended that if cars are parked too close to her driveway, Ms. Sadoris should contact the Police Department. He said that the Police Department normally investigates situations where vehicles are parking too close to driveways on a complaint basis.

Ms. Sadoris expressed concerns about the impact of the bicycle lanes on Washington Street. She thought that more cars might park on Wabash Avenue if parking was eliminated on Washington Street.

Mike Bily said that could be a possibility when the parking restrictions on Washington Street go into effect. Chief Bily stated that the Commission would make a decision about parking restrictions on Grove Street, Lynn Street, Maple Street, Urbana Avenue, Wabash Avenue and Webber Street next month and recommend action to the Urbana City Council. .

Ms. Sadoris said that she would be able to park in her driveway, but others would have to find places to park. She asked if the restrictions would extend to the south of Washington Street.

Les Stratton said that the restrictions would be from Washington Street to Oregon Street to accommodate larger vehicles travelling on those streets.

Robin Shaw expressed concern about inoperable cars parked in driveways. She felt they brought down the value of properties in the area. She said that she would bring this concern to her Council member's attention.

Mike Bily summarized by saying that the Traffic Commission will make its recommendation at its May 4th meeting and send those recommendations to the Council. He said that the Council will make a decision based upon those recommendations and public input.

Joe Smith said that something needed to be done, but it may not be the restrictions as suggested.

Mike Bily read an e-mail from Lisa Powers at 809 South Webber Street who favored the parking restrictions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

The next meeting will be held May 4, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary