

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Sadoris, 807 South Wabash Avenue
Robin Shaw, 803 East Michigan Avenue
Mary Van Cleave, 806 South Urbana Street
Bill Van Cleave, 806 South Urbana Street
Bettina Francis, 801 South Anderson Street
Lisa Power, 809 South Webber Street

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

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

Dennis Roberts discussed the results of two previous Traffic Commission meetings (March 2, 2010 and April 6, 2010), where parking restrictions were discussed. He mentioned that he had received recent e-mail messages from Brad Hudson, who expressed concerns about speeding on Anderson Street and the impact parking restrictions on Washington Street might have to the area

and from Marvin Gerstein, who stated that he would prefer restrictions on the east side of Grove Street.

Lisa Powers said that the current parking situation made it difficult to get out of her driveway. She also expressed concern about emergency vehicle access. She stated that she preferred the parking restriction on one side of the street to help with snow removal and street sweeping.

Bettina Francis stated that she didn't receive a notice. She added that even though she did not live on the impacted street, she did own property that was adjacent to the area. She was concerned about the restrictions because Washington Street would be restricted and those who parked on Washington Street would move to the side streets to find parking. She said that she opposed the parking restrictions because she considered them a blanket restriction for a problem that did not occur often.

Mary Van Cleave asked if a decision on restrictions in the area could be deferred until the Washington Street parking restrictions had gone into effect to determine the impact those restrictions would have. She suggested having the restrictions during the winter months and on the side of the street where fewer cars parked.

Bill Van Cleave said that he noted that the fire department went through their street with no problems. He stated that he would prefer snow restrictions or parking restrictions during the daytime. He would prefer that the City use smaller plows on the street instead of restricting parking.

Helen Sadoris said that company had no place to park, but she didn't think that emergency vehicles would be able to access her driveway in an emergency. She was concerned about the impact of parking restrictions on Washington Street and didn't think that the side streets would be able to accommodate the additional parking.

Joe Smith stated that all of the residences on Washington Street, with the exception of one, had driveways. He said that the residence without a driveway was planning to add one. He added that the bike lanes on Washington Street would be installed in either July or August of this year.

Mike Bily stated that the Traffic Commission would make a recommendation to the City Council and that the Council would ultimately decide whether or not to restrict parking.

Joe Smith said that the item could be on the Council agenda prior to the installation of the bicycle lanes if a decision was made at this meeting.

Dennis Roberts said that the Commission had listened to public input for the last three months.

Mike Bily said that the item was brought to the Commission by the Public Works Department. He mentioned that the Police Department and Fire Department had not had any problems accessing the area, but the Public Works Department had difficulty plowing the streets during the winter snow season. He expressed concern about the impact of parking restrictions on

Washington Street and how that would affect parking on the streets under consideration for restrictions. He was concerned about restricting parking all year for access issues that happened primarily in the winter. He would prefer a solution that would be less restrictive than one that would be year-round.

Joe Smith concurred with Chief Bily that the accessibility problems occurred during winter snow removal. He said that snow removal routes were difficult to enforce so he recommended placing a parking restriction on one side of the street from November to March.

Mike Bily was concerned with parking restrictions that would limit visitor parking on holidays. He suggested looking for other possible solutions.

Dennis Roberts suggested imposing the restrictions from January to February or perhaps adding a snow route.

Mike Bily suggested parking restrictions for a period of time during the day on one side of the street. He mentioned that Champaign has snow routes on its arterial streets, not on its residential streets.

Joe Smith said that he would discuss other options with the Public Works Director and Operations Manager. He said that Public Works would look at other communities to see what they have done.

Mike Bily moved that the item be postponed until June to allow for more research on possible solutions.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 1, 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