

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 5, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Pat Connolly, Assistant Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Todd Harrison, 11 Montclair Road
Diane Marlin, Council Member, Ward 7
Heather Stevenson, Council Member, Ward 6
Robb Patton, Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District

The meeting began at 4:03 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking on Montclair Drive

Dennis Roberts stated that this item was discussed at the September meeting and it was recommended that the Engineering Division look at the intersection of Vine Street and Montclair Drive to determine if there were any areas of concern.

Joe Smith reported that parked vehicles on Montclair Drive made turning difficult for cars entering from Vine Street.

Joe Smith moved the installation of no parking restrictions from the sidewalk on Vine Street to 75 feet to the west on Montclair Drive.

Dennis Roberts asked if it would be necessary to notify the residents in the area.

Joe Smith mentioned that it was a safety issue. He added that there would still be enough room for vehicles to park in front of the homes.

Pat Connolly asked about the confusion with using No Parking Here to Corner signage.

Joe Smith said that the signage had been changed so that the signs would be angled and use arrows to indicate where the parking restrictions were.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

Diane Marlin stated that she had received an e-mail voicing concern about parking all along Montclair Drive.

Joe Smith said that the street was wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides of the street and allow two cars to pass. He added that the parked vehicles actually lower vehicle speeds. He said that if the parking was removed vehicle speeds would increase and congestion would occur on one side of the street.

Todd Harrison said that he was more concerned about speeding on Montclair Drive than parking. He mentioned that he had not realized the unintended consequence of removing parking on the street. He added that he would be satisfied if the parking at the intersection of Vine Street and Montclair Drive was removed.

Dennis Roberts stated that if a problem still existed, the item could come back to the Traffic Commission for reevaluation.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of a bus stop on Springfield Avenue at the Phillips Recreation Center.

Robb Patton explained MTD's plan to consolidate bus stops between downtown Urbana and Campus as a way to run a more efficient system. He said that the stops at McCullough Street and Springfield Avenue and Coler Avenue and Springfield Avenue would be consolidated with the stop on Springfield Avenue occurring to the west of the Phillips Recreation Center. He requested the removal of parking spaces for a distance of approximately 100 to 150 feet to allow busses to pull into and out of the area.

Joe Smith asked if the articulated busses would run the route. He asked what the length of those busses would be.

Mr. Patton said that those busses were about 60 feet in length.

Joe Smith said that the City would look at removing parking for 200 feet to accommodate at least two busses.

Dennis Roberts asked if the busses would no longer stop at any corner.

Robb Patton said that MTD would try to stop at specific locations to avoid conflicts with traffic and to provide a better flow of bus service. He said that most of the consolidation had occurred in the campus area.

Dennis Roberts voiced concern about pedestrians having to walk farther to catch the bus.

Robb Patton said that the changes in service had been well received. He mentioned that it has been done in high density areas.

Pat Connolly said the consolidation was good because it reduced the points of conflict between the busses, pedestrians and motorists.

Dennis Roberts asked if a turn out could be installed for the busses similar to the ones on Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that there was not enough room.

Robb Patton said that it would be very expensive.

Joe Smith said that Springfield Avenue would be resurfaced so the lanes would be moved to allow the busses to pull into the bus stop area.

Joe Smith moved to remove parking for 150 feet on Springfield Avenue from 200 feet west of the centerline of McCullough Avenue to 350 feet west of the centerline of McCullough Avenue.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

Robb Patton mentioned that a modern shelter would be located at the bus stop.

This item will go to Council for approval.

New Business

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Abbey Road at University Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed concerns he had received from residents in the Beringer Commons area about vehicles parking close to the intersection of Abbey Road and University Avenue.

Heather Stevenson said that the vehicles had always been parking there.

Joe Smith suggested that parking be restricted from two vehicles to one vehicle. He mentioned that there should not be parking allowed within 30 feet of a stop sign. He added that there were not parking signs there.

Heather Stevenson mentioned that the stop sign was on the other side of the street.

Joe Smith said that State law prohibited parking within 30 feet of the intersection, not just the side where the stop sign was located.

Pat Connolly asked if the situation could be monitored by the Police Department.

Joe Smith said that they could do that.

Pat Connolly said that he would discuss the results at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Action on this item will be postponed until the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions on Rainbow View at Smith Road.

Heather Stevenson said that this situation was brought to her attention by one of her constituents. She explained that Rainbow View between Smith Road and Ogelthorpe Avenue was narrow, which made it difficult for two cars to pass when cars parked on one side of the street. She said that most of those parking on Rainbow View were occupants of the apartment complex to the north of Rainbow View. She added that there were many empty spaces in the parking lot that could be used by those parking on the street.

Joe Smith mentioned that the item had been discussed by the Traffic Commission before. He added that parking was allowed on that section of Rainbow View since there were no houses on that section of the street.

Heather Stevenson said that she felt it was safer to park on the side streets in Savannah Green than on Rainbow View.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the south side of Rainbow View between Ogelthorpe Avenue and Smith Road.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 2, 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