

Traffic Commission Meeting
January 17, 2013

Meeting was held at the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St, 2nd floor

Meeting was called to order @ 6pm by Stan Koty

Attendance: Stan Koty, George Manzelli, Thomas Graney, James Polito
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Matthew Dias, Terence Smith
Other: Dominique Stassart, Grover Taylor, Lauren Clayton

Item #1 – Minutes from December 20, 2012 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously.

Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking:

a) 99 Heath St

Incomplete application, motion to table by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous.

b) 28 Puritan Rd

Incomplete application, motion to table by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous.

c) 316 Highland Av (Delight Medicals)

Smith explained that applicant is the owner of a medical supply store and that Mass health regulations require a handicapped parking space; T&P has no objections. Motion to approve by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous.

Item #3 – Request to modify Handicapped Parking Application with the requirement of providing proof of valid Mass Drivers License.

Smith explained that T&P requires renewal of handicapped parking spaces every two years and upon renewal of one space discovered the applicant did not have a valid driver's license. City Solicitor agreed that requiring proof of valid Mass driver's license is a viable condition for application process. Motion to approve by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous.

Item #4 – Traffic Enforcement and Traffic Flow concerns on Prospect Hill Parkway.

Traffic Commission reviewed letter by Resident, D. Stassart.

Stassart stated that she moved here 1 year ago and is afraid of the traffic on her street. The neighborhood has lots of families with children and bikers. The street is being used as a shortcut from Union Sq to McGrath Highway and has had accidents recently. She asked if anything could be done to preserve the neighborhood and slow down traffic. Polito stated he was not aware of any accidents and it is difficult to exceed the speed limit due to curves in the street. He invited Ms. Stassart to stand with an officer and radar gun. Stassart replied that speeding wasn't the only problem; heavy traffic was a big part of it. She stated that the peak hour restrictions are not enforced from McGrath Hwy. Polito stated many tickets are written during restricted hours but that they cannot have an officer there daily.

Smith stated he deferred to the police department regarding speeding and stop sign violations; as for the request for a bike lane on the street, it is too narrow to support a defined bike lane; as to her request for a one way, she would need to have a petition signed by 66% of the impacted neighborhood before such a request will be considered by the Traffic Commission; and as to her

request to restrict traffic at all times rather than just peak hours, it is the opinion of the City Solicitor that it cannot be done.

Koty stated that this area has been looked at in the past for traffic calming and the petitions never generated enough signatures.

He recommended that the police department have more enforcement and that Polito schedule a meeting with Smith attending at the location to review these concerns. The item was then laid on the table.

Item #5 – Tabled Item:

- a) Request for 15 Minute Parking on Broadway – Ball Square (in 1 space upon removal of the bike corral)

Dias stated that although concerns remain about creating a parking imbalance (too many short-term spaces and not enough longer-term), after working with the Mayor's Office, Alderman O'Donovan, and Mr. Taylor, a trial period would allow for an outcome based decision in the best interest of all businesses in Ball Square. He also stated that short-term and longer-term parking spaces are never for one business in a business district. They are for all businesses, and provided for public consumption.

Dias suggested a long-term trial period, with frequent reporting back to the Traffic Commission. Chair stated his support, as did Polito and Graney.

Chair stated his support of involving the local officials to help make a balanced and informed decision.

Motion to approve a Trial 15-minute parking space made by Polito, 2nd Manzelli, unanimous.

Item #6 – Parking System and Enforcement Updates.

Dias stated that since the last meeting, T&P has processed over 1,000 permit applications and seen very good turnaround times from the hard work of T&P staff.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:25pm