

Traffic Commission Meeting
December 20, 2012

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

Called to order @ 6pm by Stan Koty

Attendance: George Manzelli, Thomas Graney, Stan Koty
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Matt Dias, Terence Smith
Other: Grover Taylor, Lauren Clayton

Item #1 – Minutes from November 15, 2012 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously.

Item #2 – Request for Turning Restrictions

- a) No Right Turn onto Ivaloo St From Park St and No Left Turn onto Ivaloo St from Beacon St 7am-9am and 4pm-7pm

Traffic Engineer stated that due to the potential safety hazard of cut through traffic on Ivaloo St, T&P has no objection to a turning restriction at this location.

The Chair made a motion to split the question and approve Item # 2a, 2nd by Manzelli, unanimous;

- b) Glenwood Rd from Medford St 4pm-6pm

Traffic Engineer stated that this request was the result of a Board Order submitted by the Ward Alderman and if enacted could create additional traffic on Norwood Av. He recommended a 90 day trial period.

Graney made a motion to approve for a 90 day trial period, 2nd Manzelli, unanimous.

Item #3 – Request for No Parking Anytime

Hall Av at College Av for a distance of 30ft (both sides)

Traffic Engineer stated that this intersection is no different than any other and that there is no observed problem with reduced visibility due to parking when the 20ft rule is followed.

Due to advocacy of the Alderman at Large, T&P has no objection to a 90 day trial period. The Chair asked if this would be the only 30ft restriction in the city to which Smith replied no there are others.

A motion was made to approve for a 90 day trial period by Manzelli, 2nd Koty, unanimous.

Item #4 – Request for a Loading Zone, Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

Willow Av – at Elm St, east side

Request from a business owner; no Loading Zones in this area. Motion to approve made by Graney, 2nd Manzelli, unanimous.

Item #5 – Request for Stop Sign

Windsor Pl at elbow in roadway

Traffic Engineer stated that this is an atypical intersection and there is a large active parking lot at this location. T&P supports this request.

A motion was made to approve by Manzelli, 2nd Graney, unanimous.

Item #6 – Tabled Item

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

The Chair stated the police department was directed to review the request, but not present. He asked the secretary to read through the list of short-term parking spaces in Ball Square.

The Secretary reported there are 11 short term parking spaces in Ball Square.

The Director (Dias) expressed his concerns; while supportive of the business and its parking needs, he feared disrupting what appears to be an effective system in place – Ball Square, he stated, appears to be thriving. Dias stated that any parking system is a compromise among competing interests (short, long, deliveries, employees, visitors, etc), and should aim to benefit as many users as possible, as much as possible. But no system can accommodate every single request and yet maintain its balance.

The Chair stated his fear about eliminating another 2-hour parking space from the lunch and breakfast businesses when 11 short-term parking spaces already exist in close proximity and directly across the street. The chair further stated that Ball Square was usually full at peak hours and agreed the system appeared to be working.

The Chair asked T&P to take another month to review and provide a recommendation.

A motion was made to table the request until the next Traffic Commission Meeting by Manzelli, 2nd Koty, unanimous.

Item #7 – Parking System and Enforcement Updates

Dias provided the following updates: Continuing efforts to improve customer service, T&P has begun offering 3-day visitor permits and recently implemented a long-awaited on-line permit renewal system.

Dias stated that each household is receiving the information with their annual renewal notices. Dias also noted the addition of two new vehicles in the T&P fleet (surplus police vehicles) to help augment current enforcement efforts, which will hopefully utilize license plate recognition, similar to the police dept. and other parking depts., in the future. His stated that vehicles were repainted white and all police lights/insignia were removed. The vehicle now have T&P decals and 311 contact information, to ensure they are not mistaken for a police car.

Meeting was adjourned @ 6:50pm