

Traffic Commission Meeting
March 20, 2014

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

Meeting was called to order at 6pm

Members: Stan Koty, Thomas Graney, James Polito, Robert McWatters

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Terence Smith, Austin Faison

Other: Courtney O'Keefe, Lauren Clayton, Sarah Spicer, Alderman Heuston, Alderman Ballantyne

Minutes from February 27, 2014 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

Alderman McWatters motioned to re-order the agenda and move Items #2, 6, 8, and 9 to the end of the agenda, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #3 – Request for the removal of the “No Parking School Bus” and 5 Minute Drop Off” spaces on Prescott St at the Cummings School

- Terence Smith stated since the Cummings School is no longer in operation these restrictions are no longer needed at this location and should be replaced with Residential Permit Parking restrictions.

Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, seconded by Mr. McWatters. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #4 – Request for approval of existing 15 Minute Parking 8am-6pm on Lincoln St (Los Paisano's Restaurant); will revert back to Residential Permit Parking 6pm-8am

- Terence Smith explained this restriction was the result of a meeting between the previous Director of Traffic and Parking, East Somerville Main Streets, and the business owner. It was never brought before the Commission for approval. The local Ward Alderman is in favor of approval for a 90 day trial period.

Motion to Approve with the amendment of a 90 day trial period made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #5 – Request for Handicapped Parking
53 Franklin St

- Terence Smith stated the application meets criteria and the local Ward Alderman has no opposition to the request.

Motion to Approve made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #7 – Request for 15 Minute Parking
153 Highland Av

- Terence Smith explained this request came from the owner of the convenience store. He is asking to remove one meter and replace it with a 15 Minute Parking restriction. Traffic and Parking does not support the request as there is a Loading Zone across the street allowing 20 minute commercial and 5 minute passenger vehicle parking, a parking lot across Central St. from 153 Highland Av, and enforcement of 15 Minute Parking is difficult.

Motion to Deny made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #10 – Prior Business

-99 Heath St, Handicapped Parking approved for a 90 day trial, Nov 2013

-16 Princeton St, Handicapped Parking approved for a 90 day trial, Nov 2013

-89 Cedar St, Handicapped Parking approved for a 90 day trial, Nov 2013

- Terence Smith stated the applicant for 89 Cedar St is deceased so the spot can be removed. He has not received any comments regarding the spaces at 99 Heath St or 16 Princeton St and therefore has no objection to making them permanent.

Motion to remove the 90 day trial for the Handicapped Parking Spaces at 16 Princeton St and 99 Heath St, restrictions are now permanent, and to remove the Handicapped Parking Space at 89 Cedar St, made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #6 – Request to relocate Handicapped Parking Space from 1108 Broadway to Broadway between Hill St and Dickson St.

- Alderman Ballantyne stated she is not opposed to the sign being removed from this location and relocated to Broadway between Hill St and Dickson St as long as a sign is posted notifying the public of the new location.
- Terence Smith stated the City's ADA Coordinator wants the space relocated either across the street at Westminster St or to metered space A51 in front of Magnificent Muffin.
- The Chair asked Alderman Balantyne if she had a preference between the two spaces proposed by the ADA Coordinator and she asked it be moved to the metered space.

Motion to relocate the Handicapped Parking Space at 1108 Broadway to the metered space (A51) on Broadway in front of the Magnificent Muffin made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Mr. Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #2 – Request for Bicycle Corral
365 Somerville Av

- Sarah Spicer explained currently there is a bike corral in front of the Tax House on Somerville Av. They received a request from Fortissimo Café, 365 Somerville Av, to move the corral to their location.

- Alderman Heuston asked how many spaces the corral would occupy and Ms. Spicer answered one. She asked if the location of the current corral would be a viable parking space once the corral was removed and Ms. Spicer answered yes. She also asked if it would impede traffic and Ms. Spicer answered no. Alderman Heuston then inquired as to how other businesses will be notified and Ms. Spicer replied currently the program is based on requests. Alderman Heuston stated she was concerned taking away this space could hurt other businesses and asked if approval could be conditioned on the notification of other area businesses and be reconsidered if any opposition.

Motion to approve pending the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development notifying affected businesses and reporting back to the Director of Traffic and Parking within 10 days of notification if any complaints are received, made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #8 – Request to change the 2 Hour Parking to 3 Hour Parking on Tyler St

Item #9 – Request to extend the hours of the Timed Parking Restrictions on Properzi Way from 8am-6pm to 8am to 8pm.

- Alderman Heuston addressed both Items 8 and 9 together. She stated both streets are a mess of different and conflicting signage. She explained this request came from one of the businesses in the area, however since there are many other businesses and residences in this area she would like to work with Traffic and Parking to consider and balance the needs of everyone, while also addressing public safety concerns.
- Suzanne Rinfret agreed there is a need for balance in this area.

Motion to table both Items 8 and 9, made by Mr. McWatters, seconded by The Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Motion to adjourn at 6:25pm was made by Lt. Polito, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.