



City of Chelsea
TRAFFIC & PARKING COMMISSION
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Minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting.

The meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission was held in the Council Conference Room (#305), in Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA.

The meeting was opened at 6:00p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sergeant John Nofle. Members present were Director of Public Works Bert Taverna, Fire Chief Leonard Albanese, Alex Train of Planning and Development and resident member Jorge Pazos.

Old Business:

Agenda Item #1 - Public hearing to receive comment regarding the introduction of meters or one-hour time limit parking on Washington Avenue in Cary Square, specifically on the odd side from 173 Washington Avenue to 181 Washington Avenue and the even side from 178 Washington Avenue to Bloomingdale Street

Before commencing the public speaking portion of the meeting, three (3) resident letters addressing the matter were submitted for the record; 1.) letter, dated February 21st, 2017 and authored by resident Elena McCarthy in support of the request; 2.) letter, dated February 21st, 2017, authored by resident Connie Mojica in support of the request; and 3.) letter, dated February 21st, 2017, authored by resident Bruce Black on behalf of the 100-member Cary Square Associates civic organization, in opposition to the request. Two petitions in opposition to the request were submitted; the first petition, from Cary Sq. Associates, contained 27 signatures and the second petition, submitted by business owner Karen Moschella of 179 Washington Ave., contained 32 signatures. John Nofle opened the item for public comment. Karen Moschella, business owner located at 179 Washington Ave., spoke in opposition to the request, stating that parking turnover in Cary Sq. is reasonable and clientele of her dance studio disfavor meters. Yadira Rosario, of 156 Washington Ave., spoke in opposition to the matter. Robin Antonetti, of 67 Clinton St., spoke in opposition to the matter. Stan Troisi, of 108 Springvale St., spoke in opposition to the matter, contesting the petitioner's claim that there is not regular turnover and therefore Cary Sq. requires parking meters. Louie Addonizio, of 59 Garland St., spoke in opposition to the matter, contending that residents he has conferred with are against having to pay for parking in Cary Sq. Devra Suri Zobot, of 145 Walnut St., spoke in support of the request and the assistance it would provide to Cary Sq.'s collection of retail and food establishments. Jason Owens, of 1 Webster Ave. # 413, spoke in opposition to the matter. Liz Portnoy, of 1 Webster Ave. #413, asked the Commission to consider striking a balanced compromise between the needs of Cary Sq.'s small businesses and the needs of residents in the square and surrounding neighborhoods. Gladys Vega, of 116 Park Ave., spoke in favor of the petitioner's request and support for neighborhood establishments. Jennette Velez, of 1 Franklin Ave., spoke in opposition to installing parking meters in Cary Sq., drivers would be apt to instead park in the surrounding neighborhoods, negatively impacting residents. Councilor Yamir Rodriguez spoke in opposition to the request. Councilor Damali Vidot spoke in opposition to the request, based on her conversations with residents and business owners in Cary Sq. Vicanta Pono, of 59 Cherry St., spoke in support of the request and the benefit it could yield for small businesses. Roy

Avellaneda of Pan Y Café, the petitioner, spoke regarding the lack of parking turnover in Cary Sq. Mr. Avellaneda asserts that this is due to people parking their vehicles in Cary Sq. all day, departing to board the MBTA bus. As a result, businesses situated in Cary Sq., such as Pan Y Café, do not have ample on-street parking for their clientele. John Nofle closed the public hearing, with no additional speakers coming forward. Alex Train commented on resident concerns, primarily that the introduction of metered spaces in Cary Sq. could push additional parking into the adjacent neighborhoods, requiring mitigation. Len Albanese inquired if it were plausible to create any new parking spaces in Cary Sq. Bert Taverna replied that there was no additional room to create any additional legal parking spaces. Alex Train commented that the Commission must reflect on this matter in a balanced manner that respects the array of stakeholders present in Cary Sq. Due to the late submission of petitions and letters, Alex Train asked if the members of the Commission should continue the matter, thus creating time to review grievances and letters of support, as well as assess the viability of a compromise. The Commission would also look into the allegations of drivers parking their vehicles for unreasonable durations of time. Bertram Taverna agreed. Alex Train made a motion to table the matter pending further review. Chief Len Albanese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 – Communication of November 30, 2016 from Police Chief Brian A. Kyes, requesting changes to the current regulations for the city’s Truck Route.

Alex Train provided an update to the Commission on his discussions with MassDOT related to reposting “No Truck” signage on the Rt. 1 Northbound side of the Tobin, forewarning drivers of the Beacon St. off-ramp. Furthermore, an update was provided pertaining to: the City’s request to reaffirm the heavy commercial vehicle exclusion on the Beacon St. off-ramp; the City’s request to convert Beacon St. proper as a prohibited route for heavy commercial vehicles; to designate the Fourth St. off-ramp as prohibited heavy commercial vehicles; and the City’s request to codify a heavy commercial vehicle exclusion on Fourth St. proper. Alex Train explained that MassDOT’s heavy commercial vehicle exclusion often applies to trucks exceeding 2.5 tons in weight, while Chief Kyes’ request pertains to trucks weighing more than 8 tons. MassDOT would have the final say. Alex Train recommended the motion be passed, as to expedite the heavy commercial vehicle exclusion process with MassDOT. Alex Train made a motion to 1.) Revise the typographic error in the City’s truck route ordinance; and 2.) to prohibit trucks from utilizing the Beacon St. off-ramp, Beacon St. proper, the Fourth St. off-ramp, and Fourth St. proper from the off-ramp to Broadway, contingent upon acceptance of an engineering study commissioned by the City and final approval of the prohibition and attendant details by MassDOT. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 – Handicap sign removal request of December 12, 2016 for 16 Lynn St.

The Commission reviewed the request, submitted by Santos Martinez. Bert Taverna commented that the tenant whom originally requested the space has moved. There are a number of additional handicap spaces within the vicinity of this one. Bert Taverna made a motion to approve the removal. Chief Len Albanese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 – Handicap sign removal request of December 15, 2016 for 45 Parker St.

The Commission reviewed the request, submitted by Ryan Kreps. The resident has moved. Bert Taverna made a motion to approve the removal. Chief Len Albanese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Agenda Item #5 – Minutes of the January 31, 2017 meeting.

Sgt. John Noffle made a motion to approve the minutes. Alex Train seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 – Communication of February 1, 2017 from Deborah P. Walker, requesting the removal of the Bunker Hill Bus Stop sign on Shurtleff St.

Bert Taverna stated that the Department of Public Works had already removed this sign once Bunker Hill began vacating the premises. No vote was taken.

Agenda Item #7 – Communication of Devra Sari Zobot of the Walnut Street Synagogue requesting parking permits for staff member, a fifteen minute designated parking space, and a special permit for vendors.

The petitioner is part of a group working on the restoration of the Walnut Street Synagogue. The synagogue's Rabbi and other staff cannot find parking in the neighborhood, as there is an all day residential permit requirement. Bert Taverna commented on the challenges posed by the density of this area. Jorge Pazos stated that while a portion of the request could be feasibly accommodated, he's uncertain if there is enough physical space to limit any reduction of resident spaces. Bert Taverna made a motion to table the matter so that the Department of Public Works and the Department of Planning & Development could meet with the petitioner and assess the spatial constraints of this area in order to determine a suitable parking convention for the synagogue.

Jorge Pazos made a motion to adjourn. Bert Taverna seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Alex Train
Department of Planning & Development