



City of Chelsea

TRAFFIC & PARKING COMMISSION

OFFICE City Hall, 500 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150

Telephone: (617) 466-4054

Fax: (617) 466-4059

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Minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting.

The meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission was held in the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. The meeting was opened at 6:10 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sergeant John Nofle. Members present were Director of Public Works Bert Taverna, Alex Train of Planning and Development, and resident members Jorge Pazos and Carolyn Boumila-Vega. Fire Chief Len Albanese and Brian Wagner were absent.

Old Business:

Agenda Item #1 – Public Hearing on Communication of December 12, 2017 from Juan Gallego, requesting one-sided parking on Franklin Street.

Marsha Johnson, of 31 Franklin Street, stated that there should be parking on one side because when cars are parked on both sides, it is difficult to get in and out of the driveway. It also makes driving in both directions difficult with two-sided parking. Also, she feels it is a fire safety hazard for the trucks. Juan Gallego, of 29 Franklin Street, stated that this block of Franklin Street was a tight street and is the only block with parking on both sides. He has to back into the driveway across the street in order to get out of his driveway. He also mentioned that the fire trucks would have difficulty getting through if there were an emergency. Robert Bishop stated that the City Council had previously rejected the request because he felt that a public hearing should have been held by the Commission. He is not opposed to the request but wanted to ensure that residents were given the opportunity to speak on the issue. He stated that he drove around the area and did not see any problems. He has not received any complaints regarding fire concerns. He stated that Cook Avenue is similar to Franklin and when the fire truck responded to a fire on Prospect, they had to park down the street. He noted there are several streets in the city that should be looked at if they should approve the request. The residents in that neighborhood are concerned about parking for ten to twelve cars and where will they park. He mentioned that there is resident parking program being enforced so we are assuming everyone is a resident. He stated he leaves the final decision to the board and their concerns. Juan Gallego responded that the Councilor's street is a one-way street with one sided parking. He stated that a fire truck fits nicely down his street. He stated that only three homes would be affected by this change and asked the Commission to approve the request. Robert Bishop asked if this is a day or nighttime issue. Marsha Johnson responded both. She stated that she appreciated his concern but public safety is a concern. She has lived there twenty years and has seen Everett residents parking on her street and drivers speeding in both directions. Robert Bishop made it known that he was not opposed to the request and understood their concerns. He did not want taxpayers surprised by the change as that is the purpose of a public hearing. Alex Train recollects Len Albanese concerned about it being a less than ten foot lane of travel. Bert Taverna stated that he need to close the street and concurs with the Fire Department from an operational perspective. The members discussed the streets measurements for parking and travel. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request to advance public safety. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 – Handicapped sign application of October 16, 2017 from Juan Rodriguez, of 44 Orange Street.

Alex Train made a motion to deny the application as Mr. Rodriguez was not present at the meeting to clarify his need for the sign. He failed to appear at the last meeting as well. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 – Handicapped sign application of January 31, 2018 from Debra Anderson, of 16 Bassett Street.

Alex Train made a motion to deny the application as Ms. Anderson was not present to clarify her need for the sign. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Agenda Item #4 - Minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Alex Train made motion to table the item until next meeting. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item #5 - Handicapped sign application of February 20, 2018 from Toribia Vaquerano, of 126 Franklin Avenue.

Toribia Vaquerano stated that there is currently a sign posted at this location but the applicant has moved to Lynn. She would like to see if it could be left there and transferred to her. Alex Train made a motion to approve the application. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Handicapped sign removal request of February 20, 2018 from Migdalia Justiniano for 121 Hawthorn Street.

Alex Train made motion to approve the request. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Handicapped sign application of February 22, 2018 from William Dwyer, of 4 Reynolds Avenue.

William Dwyer stated that he is 80 years old and needs the sign because it was hard for him to walk. Bert Taverna stated that he had drove by the area and there is currently four handicap signs in the area.

William Dwyer responded that there was only one and it was far away. Alex Train suggested moving one closer. He informed him that by regulation they can only have a certain amount of signs in an area.

Jeannette Cintron White stated that he has a two car garage and his neighbors have submitted complaints about him parking in front of his driveway blocking passage on the sidewalk. She went on to say that the regulation states having a driveway or garage may disqualify him from getting a sign posted. William Dwyer said that his garage is currently full of materials from his son and that he has tried to get them to clean it out with no success. Alex Train made a motion to table the request pending further investigation of the current signage in the area. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - Handicapped sign application of February 28, 2018 from Nelson Aviles-Lopez, of 118 Congress Avenue.

Alex Train made the motion to approve the application. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Communication of March 1, 2018 from Janet Rodriguez, of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, requesting permission for a Religious Procession on March 30, 2018.

John Nofle mentioned that the Commission has never reviewed these kinds of events. This parade has been going on for years. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 - Communication of March 5, 2018 from Devra Zobot, requesting at the corner of Third Street and Broadway, on the southwesterly side of Third Street, some type of barrier be placed so that no one can park in that spot and would also allow the bus to make the turn from Broadway onto Third Street.

Alex Train and Bert Taverna stated that there is an existing sign at this location to restrict parking. It is on DPW's list of signs that must be replaced. Alex Train stated that it is extremely faded from the sun. Bert Taverna stated that he will replace the sign. No vote taken.

Agenda Item #11 - Communication of March 5, 2018 from Devra Zobot requesting to put a 15 minute parking spot in front of 272 Broadway to allow access for people to pick up and drop off senior folks living at 272 Broadway.

Alex Train stated that she would need to get a letter from the abutters and submit an application for 15 minute parking spot. No vote taken.

Agenda Item #12 - Handicapped sign application of March 6, 2018 from Joseph Willess, of 36 Maverick Street.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #13 - Communication of March 6, 2018 from City Councilor Joseph Perlatonda requesting that the Traffic and Parking Commission look into improving the overall resident parking program to better benefit the residents of Chelsea.

Alex Train made motion to table the request pending further discussion with the Councilor as it is not clear what specifically an issue is. He asks that Councilor Joseph Perlatonda be present to clarify the request. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #14 - Communication of March 6, 2018 from City Councilor Joseph Perlatonda requesting that the Traffic and Parking Commission look into changing the hours of Chelsea City Hall parking lot for the residential parking to 7:00 PM – 7:00 AM, with the exception of a snow emergency, and report back to the Council their findings.

Alex Train stated that he found an issue with this request as some of the meetings last past 7:00 pm. John Nofle stated that enforcement stops at 6:00 pm. Jeannette Cintron White mentioned that this request was related to Item #17. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Jorge Pazos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #15 - Communication of March 6, 2018 from City Councilor Luis Tejada requesting that the Traffic and Parking Commission put up a "No Parking Here to Corner" in the front of 1 Franklin Avenue before the driveway.

Councilor Luis Tejada stated that when they replaced the sidewalks and curb-cuts people began parking too close to the driveway located at 1 Franklin Avenue. The resident has complained that he is not able to get out of his driveway. Also, he stated that he would like DPW to paint the fire hydrant. Bert Taverna told him that DPW will be doing it. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item # 16 - Communication of March 9, 2018 from Alex Garcia-Mendoza, of NEI General Contracting, submitting Traffic Control Plan for city approval of "Specific Management Plan Eastern Avenue drain connection/tie-in."

Alex Garcia-Mendoza stated that it would be a week of work and there are two sections, Eastern Avenue and Spencer Avenue. They have sewer work but that is another scheduled plan. He said they will be working with T&D and will be doing the work while school was out of session. They can keep one lane open for traffic flow. He had submitted a request for permit from Mass DOT but it was pending per the city's approval. We will have to close Spencer Avenue and redirect the traffic. John Nofle told him that he would need to notify Captain Thomas Dunn. Alex Garcia-Mendoza will notify him and mentioned that he would need the approval letter to get Mass DOT's permit issued first. Alex Train stated that after the Commission's vote, it will need to go before the City Council for approval and then the Commission will be able to give him the approval for Mass DOT. Jeannette Cintron White explained that he could check back with Rosa Santiago Melendez on or around April 12th to see where it stands. Alex Garcia-Mendoza stated that they just wanted enough time to notify everyone in the area. Alex Train made a motion to approve the plan. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #17 - Communication of March 19, 2018 from City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White and City Manager Tom Ambrosino requesting to remove four parking meter spots on Washington Avenue and replacing with four thirty (30) minute limited parking spaces marked as "30 Minute Parking, Monday – Friday, 8AM to 6PM."

City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White stated that she had met with the City Manager regarding Joseph Perlatonda's request regarding the 7pm to 7am restriction in the City Hall lot. They also spoke with Councilor Recupero on adding visitor parking for city hall. Joseph Perlatonda mentioned that the request is similar to the parking lot for the police department. He would like to make the city hall lot for business use and employee parking during the hours of 7 am to 7 pm. Alex Train asked if all employees would get placards. Jeannette Cintron White stated that the Parking Department would use the Fifth Street lot placard to combine the use for the two lots. The placard will allow visitors to park for two hours before being ticketed in those spaces. The eight thirty (30) minute spaces will remain the same. A guest parked in the lot at 8am would be able to stay until 10am but would have to move after the two hours have passed. They would also like to replace four metered spaces on the Washington Avenue side of City Hall with thirty (30) minute spaces. This change would allow more visitor parking and resolve some the complaints regarding guests parking all day in the lot who are not in city hall. Alex Train stated that it made sense and it wouldn't interfere with parking for their meetings. Alex Train made motion to approve the request to change the hours inside the lot and the conversion of the four thirty (30) minutes spaces on Washington Avenue. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #18 - Communication of March 19, 2018 from Fidel Maltez, of DPW, requesting a sign "Blind Spot Ahead, Slow Down" on Marginal Street approaching Willow Street for resident safety reasons.

Fidel Maltez stated that at the Chelsea Beautification Committee meeting, Maureen Crowley mentioned that while walking along Marginal Street from Eastern Avenue that the cars tend to speed up. He believes there is a potential hazard due to a blind spot and suggested that we post a sign "Blind Spot Ahead, Slow Down" sign. This area is not applicable to our 25 mph speed limit and not highly populated. He made the request because it's not a standard sign. He will not ask to place this sign everywhere in the city if approved. Bert Taverna stated that MUDTC signage handled specific signs for that problem. There is an existing pole with a missing sign and he would look into the MUDTC signs being replaced. Bert Taverna made motion to approve the request by use of a MUDTC pedestrian compliant sign. Alex Train seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #19 - Communication of March 20, 2018 from City Manager Tom Ambrosino requesting to restore parking on the western side of Washington Avenue between Blossom Street and Heard Street. Currently there is no parking signs posted due to the construction on the Washington Avenue bridge.

Alex Train stated that this is factual and that we should put them back. Bert Taverna mentioned that previously there were metered spots there and would restore them. Jeannette Cintron White stated that there was a bus stop there in the past but no meters. Alex Train made a motion to restore the parking spaces. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #20 - Communication of March 20, 2018 from Alex Train of Planning and Development would like the commission to consider replacing the existing downtown commercial loading and 15 minute parking zone program with an expanded, modified curbside management policy comprised of the relocation of certain commercial loading zones, the addition of new commercial loading, and revision of operating hours for certain zones.

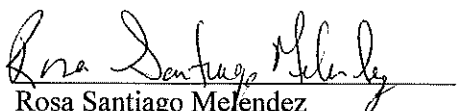
Alex Train stated that the Commission should move this item to a public hearing to give abutters a chance to speak on the request. They would like to relocate a handful of these as they may too many of them not being used and some are only used until Noon. He would like to have the one at the B&D Discount Store expanded by one more space. The one in front of City Hall should be moved to Dunkin Donuts. John Nofle wondered if Fire has any issues with this request. Jorge Pazos made a motion to move to a public hearing. Bert Taverna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alex Train made a motion to adjourn. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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Rosa Santiago Melendez
Assistant Parking Clerk