



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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Resident Member
Brian Wagner
Resident Member

Minutes of March 10, 2020

The meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission was held in the City Council Conference Room, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts. The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sergeant John Nofle. Members present were, Department of Public Works Commissioner Fidel Maltez, Deputy Fire Chief Richard Perisie and resident members: Carolyn Boumila-Vega. Assistant Director of Planning and Development Alex Train and resident members Brian Wagner and Aaron Kraemer were absent.

Item #1 - Approval of the minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting.

Fidel Maltez made a motion to accept the minutes. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 - Communication of August 2, 2019, from Sergio Jaramillo of the Chamber of Commerce, requesting additional parking spaces on Cherry Street at Luther Place.

Carlos Matos, of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that they were looking to see if parking spaces could be added on Cherry Street. Fidel Maltez stated that the City was looking to see if meters could be installed along the island because the property was not owned by the City. Rich Cuthie, of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that would it be possible to make the parking spaces available by a mobile app only instead of by a meter. Fidel Maltez stated that the City is not prepared for that kind of service. He stated that Alex Train was in the process of speaking with the property owner. Rich Cuthie asked if it was possible to create parking spaces along the Milean Fiesta building. Richard Perisie stated that he was unaware that they were looking to add spaces alongside the building but would be opposed to that idea due to fire safety concerns. He stated he was not opposed to the metered spaces as long as they are not alongside the building. Rich Cuthie asked if the meters could be installed on the street alongside the island. Fidel Maltez stated that would not be possible because they would be damaged from vehicles pulling in and out of the spaces. Richard Perisie made a motion to make three (3) parking spaces alongside the island on Cherry Street with the option to install meters once their placement is determined. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 - Communication of November 7, 2019, from Peter Buonasaro of Buonasaro Corp., requesting a Commercial Loading Zone at 44 Fourth Street.

The applicant was not present. Richard Perisie stated that they were looking to have the loading zone in front of their business which does not have parking on that side of the street. He went on to say that the City would need to move parking to the opposite side of the street. This change would cause problems for the fire apparatus making the turn from Chestnut Street. Richard Perisie made a motion to deny the request. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 - Public Hearing to receive comment regarding a request to install thirty (30) minute parking signs at 467-471 Eastern Avenue, for the local businesses.



Mohammed Ziani, of 456 Eastern Avenue, was opposed to the request because parking is tight in the area. Elba Rojas, of 471-473 Eastern Avenue, was opposed to the request because he feels it would create issues for her business. Ernestina Sirignano, of 471-4-79 Eastern Avenue, was opposed to the request because it would hurt her business. Councilor Naomi Zobot stated that the spaces would give customers parking to go in and out of the businesses and it would not affect residents parking overnight. Councilor Roy Avellaneda was in favor of the request because it would give the business owner two additional spaces in front of his store with minimal impact to residents. Mohamed Ziani stated that it would give the other businesses in the area the same idea. Richard Perisie made a motion to accept the request for two parking spaces in front of 467-471 Eastern Avenue with signage posted "Thirty (30) Minute Parking, 8am to 6pm, Monday thru Friday." Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 - Public Hearing to receive comment on installing a Loading Zone on the corner of Eastern Avenue and Carroll Street.

Fidel Maltez stated that the request is from the same business owner looking for a loading zone on the side door of the business to load and unload the laundry. Ernestina Sirignano, of 471-479 Eastern Avenue, was not in favor of the request because the owner of the dry cleaners was granted two parking spaces in front of his store. She then stated that why wouldn't he just use those spaces to load and unload. She went on to say that it was not fair for other businesses in the area. Richard Perisie made a motion to deny the request. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 - Public Hearing to receive comment on the request to consider the implementation of traffic safety measures at Beacon Street/Broadway and Beacon Street/Chestnut Street/Route One.

Sharlene McLean, of 100 Broadway, was in favor of the request because vehicles do not make the stop and it causes lots of safety issues. Rich Cuthie, of 112 Beacon Street, was in favor of the request he was in support of new the crosswalks at the off ramp. Fidel Maltez stated that the traffic consultants collected a lot of data which was very helpful. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve the request for a four way stop at the intersection of Broadway/Beacon Street and Beacon Street/Chestnut Street with the installation of new sidewalks and crosswalks at the intersection of Beacon Street and Chestnut Street. Richard Perisie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 - Communication of January 13, 2020, from Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, requesting a drop-off area at the St. Rose School.

Michele Butler, the Principal of Saint Rose School, stated that she would like to have the daytime resident parking restriction rescinded. She stated that several parents are complaining that they are finding it difficult to drop their children off at school. She went on to say that they are getting parking tickets and are very upset. Nancy Slater, of the Law Department, stated that in the morning, on her way into work, she sees parents stopping in the middle of the street letting their children out of the vehicle which is very dangerous. Fidel Maltez made a motion to rescind a portion of the current daytime resident restriction on the even side of the street of Broadway, from Gerrish Avenue and Library Street. Carolyn Boumilla-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 - Public Hearing to receive comment on the request to institute pavement markings in Park Square to channelize traffic, reduce conflicts, and improve safety for all users.

Fidel Maltez stated that this is a similar approach to Beacon Street. He went on to say that they are requesting to implement pavement markings to redesign the area to help the flow of traffic. He stated that area has traffic coming from different directions and this would improve the safety in the area. He



stated that the line painting will be on a trial basis to see if the changes will work. If they do not, they will go perform another study. Richard Perisie made a motion to accept the request. Carolyn Boumilla-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #9 - Communication of January 23, 2020, from Principal Mike Talbot of the Clark Avenue Middle School, requesting discussion on the rationale for the signs posted on Tudor Street for the Clark Avenue Middle School and the possibility of having the signs removed.

Joseph Cooney, the Building Commissioner of Chelsea Public Schools, is requesting to remove two signs stating "No Parking during School Hours" for four parking spaces that are not being utilized. Richard Perisie stated he was not opposed to this request. Richard Perisie made a motion to remove the signs for the four parking spaces Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #10 - Communication of February 11, 2020, from Councilor Enio Lopez, requesting the Commission to correct or amend the minutes of the Traffic and Parking Commission meeting of January 7, 2020 item #8 to state that he is against the item.

Councilor Enio Lopez stated that he would like to have the minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting amended to read that he was opposed to the parking being moved to the opposite side of the street. Richard Perisie made a motion to amend the minutes. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #11 - Communication of February 20, 2020, from Councilor Todd Taylor, requesting that the Commission look into solutions to resolve the current extreme backups on Washington Avenue and Route 16, whether it be by changing the lane configuration or adding more time at the set of lights, or both.

Councilor Todd Taylor stated that there is a big problem with vehicles causing traffic to back-up in the right lane on Washington Avenue. He stated that the right lane should be changed to a right turn only lane and to make the left lane a traveling straight or turning left lane only. He recommended that the City change the timing on the traffic lights if the recommended lane changes were not possible. He believes that it would help with the problem. Fidel Maltez stated that the City does not have control over the timing on the traffic lights. He stated that they recently conducted a traffic study and new line painting was completed in this area. Fidel Maltez made a motion to request that MassDot look into the timing of the lights at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Route 16. Richard Perisie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12 - Communication of February 20, 2020, from Councilor Todd Taylor, requesting that the Commission look into posting signage at the intersection of Garfield Avenue and Sagamore Avenue that reads: "No Blocking the Intersection, \$250.00 Fine."

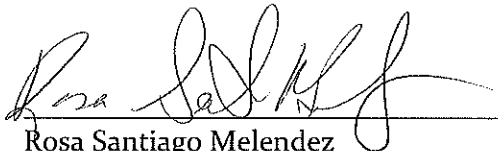
Councilor Todd Taylor stated that the vehicles are blocking this intersection, causing traffic. Fidel Maltez stated that signs are currently being posted but he is waiting on the line painting to be completed. Todd Taylor stated that the amount of the fine was wrong in his original request but was asking for the maximum amount allowed according to Mass General Law. Fidel Maltez stated he believes that it is \$150. Richard Perisie made a motion to approve the request with the fine assessed being the maximum amount allowed by Mass General Law. Carolyn Boumilla-Vega seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Item #13 - Communication of February 27, 2020, from Julio Flores of El Santaneco Restaurant, requesting two fifteen (15) minute parking spaces in front of his business on Chestnut Street.



Julio Flores, the owner of El Santaneco Restaurant, stated that he was having lots of problems with his customers picking up orders and with his delivery drivers. He explained that the front of his restaurant is on Chestnut Street where it is posted as resident parking only. He stated that he is losing lots of business because there is nowhere for customers to park. Councilor Roy Avellaneda stated that there are metered spaces available on Fifth Street and no parking restrictions on the other side of Chestnut Street. Carlos Matos, of the Chambers of Commerce, stated that he supports the request and that the restaurant still needs the ability to load and unload. Julio Flores agreed that there is parking available in the vicinity; however, he still needs spaces for customers to be able to pick up an order and the loading of deliveries closer to his business. Richard Perisie made a motion to move the item to a public hearing. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Rosa Santiago Melendez
Assistant Parking Clerk