



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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2021 FEB 16 P 6:53

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Sergeant John Nofle

Acting Chair

Rosa Santiago Melendez

Secretary

Lenard Albanese

Fire Chief

Fidel Maltez

Commissioner of Department Public Works

Alex Train

Director of Community & Housing Development

Aaron Kraemer

Resident Member

Carolyn P. Boumila-Vega

Resident Member

Minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting.

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

Item #1 – Approval of the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 – Communication of November 19, 2020 from Councilor Judith Garcia, requesting the Commission to look into making Congress Avenue and Third Street from Pearl Street to Chestnut Street, parking on both sides of the street.

Councilor Judith Garcia stated that her request is based on a number of residents reaching out to her regarding parking in the area. She stated that those are critical parking spaces needed for senior residents and family members visiting them. She stated that it would be a relief to residents to have additional parking and it would improve their quality of life. Fidel Maltez stated that he has reached out to a traffic consultant to do a study of the area. He stated that the concerns would be traffic backing up into the intersection of Park Street and if there is only one lane it would be difficult for the fire apparatus to get through. He also mentioned that due to the holidays he has not received any feedback yet. He would like to push this out to next month's meeting. Alex Train made a motion to table the request until the next meeting pending feedback from the traffic consultants. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 – Handicap sign application of December 4, 2020 from Santos Miranda, 75 Congress Avenue.

Rosa Santiago-Melendez stated that Santos Miranda was not able to attend due to her surgery. She sent her sister Dora Blanco to speak on her behalf. Dora Blanco stated that the request is a result of her surgery and was not able to walk long distances. She stated that her sister will not be using the vehicle because she is not able to drive. Fidel Maltez asked if she would be needing the handicap space long term or is this just a temporary situation. Dora Blanco responded that it would be needed for six months or until she is fully recovered. Carolyn Boumila-Vega asked if there was any family member that could move the vehicle for her. Dora Blanco responded that there is no one currently using the vehicle. Alex Train made a motion to temporarily approve the request for a six month period pending further review at that time. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 – Communication of December 10, 2020 from Tewadros Tanaye, of 119 Highland Street, requesting a discussion on safety concerns regarding ongoing accidents at the intersection of Highland Street and Chester Avenue.

Fidel Maltez stated that this is the second request regarding this intersection. He stated that the first request was submitted in 2019 at which time signage was added in the area. He stated that the Department of Public Works added more signage to the area this past week. He noted that this is a very dangerous intersection but it is difficult to move the "Stop" sign closer because of the crosswalk. He stated that they could add a speed radar on Chester Avenue at Highland Avenue but it is impossible to do any other major changes due to capital funding. Alex Train stated that to really fix the intersection it would require the reconstruction of the intersection. He stated in the interim, the City could add signage until there is capital funding available to move forward with a major reconstruction. Fidel Maltez made a motion to deny this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.



Item #5 – Handicap sign application of December 14, 2020 from Miguel Cora, 46 Sixth Street.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the application. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 – Handicap sign application of December 14, 2020 from Arianna Corado-Toledo, 28 Shurtleff Street.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the application. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

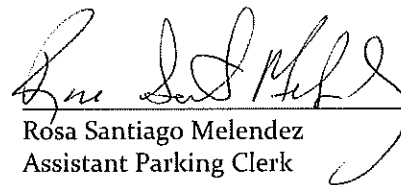
Item #7 – Communication of December 16, 2020 from Councilor Judith Garcia and resident Jason Bonetti, requesting the Commission to change the current resident parking hours on Beacon Street to read as follows: Monday-Friday 5 pm to 5 am and Saturday- Sunday 12 am to 5 am.

Councilor Judith Garcia stated that the request was proposed to her by a resident who has been over burdened with parking tickets. She stated that she understands that the hours requested may conflict with parking enforcement schedule. She went on to say that the resident was unable to be present but leaves the decision up to the Commission to do what is best. Fidel Maltez stated that the city has conducted research in the past in this area as there were parking concerns due to the courthouse. He stated that the courthouse created many challenges in the neighborhood and that it is the reason for the implementation of the current residential parking restrictions per the request of the residents. Fidel Maltez made a motion to deny this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Item #8 – Communication of December 16 2020 from Brian Martinez, of 72 Grove Street, requesting to proposal to add parking on both sides of Grove Street.

Alex Train stated that he was sympathetic with the parking challenges in this area because the streets a quite narrow. Coincidence, the area was assessed prior to Covid when a request was submitted to change the parking on the street from one side to the other. After the study was completed, they found that moving the parking to the opposite side did not create any additional parking spaces. He stated that it is not possible to have parking on both sides of the street because it would not allow enough room for the flow of traffic and the passage of emergency vehicles. Fidel Maltez noted that there is a safety concern for plows during the winter months. He stated that he is opposed to the request from a snow removal safety stand point. Fidel Maltez made a motion to deny the request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Rosa Santiago Melendez
Assistant Parking Clerk