



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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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 October 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 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, Acting Deputy Fire Chief Steven Purcell, resident members Aaron Kraemer and Renee Hibbard were present. Resident member Carolyn Boumila-Vega was absent.

Item #2 - Approval of the minutes from the September 7, 2021 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting. Steven Purcell seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Item #3 - Communication of May 19, 2021 from Argelia Sanitzo of Chelsea Dental Assoc., requesting multiple hearings on parking spaces at 109 Washington Avenue.

Ponnudural Gunazajasingam stated he was here to see if any decisions had been made on his request for parking spaces in front of his business. He stated that residents are taking all the parking spaces and his patients have nowhere to park. He asked why the city could not install parking meters so that residents do not occupy the spaces all day long. He stated that he would just like to know if the Commission have thoughts on any solutions for his problem. Fidel Maltez stated that he had reached out to Mr. Gunazajasingam on Monday and explained that it is hard to find a solution for his problem. He stated that the implementation of the current resident parking program daytime restriction was implemented due to the Silver Line. He stated that the residents in that area had complaints about commuters parking there to use public transportation. He stated that he tried to reach out to the funeral home director next to the dental office to discuss the possibility of using their parking lot but has not been unable to make contact. He stated by taking away the parking spaces from residents during the daytime would cause more difficulties for the residents. He empathizes with the dental office but there are no solutions. He stated that the current resident program does not have any visitor passes for business. Ponnudural Gunazajasingam stated that his business has been suffering for the past two years since this daytime restriction has been put into place. Councilor Roy Avellaneda stated that he sympathizes with the owner's situation. He stated that the establishment has been there for many years and residents in the area should be aware of that. He stated that the Commission has approved restricted parking spaces for businesses in Chelsea where residents are subject to the time limits as well. He stated that we do not have to make all six spaces two-hour limit only but the Commission should look into how many patients the dentist sees at a time. He suggested making two spaces like those at the laundromat on Washington Avenue and the dry cleaners on Eastern Avenue. He recommended that the Commission look into how many chairs the dentist has and then providing that many spaces as a good compromise. Alex Train stated that the Commission is committed to working with Mr. Gunazajasingam to try to see if there is any off street parking options in his area. Fidel Maltez made a motion to table this request until the next meeting. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 - Communication of September 2, 2021 from Lisa Santagate, 221 Shurtleff Street, requesting the Commission to find a different solution than to restrict the disabled from being able to park in the handicap spaces at 569 Broadway on 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 8am to 12 pm during street sweeping season.

Fidel Maltez stated that he spoke with Lisa Santagate and it would be possible to have the street sweeping signs removed in front of the library. He stated that due to the street sweeping schedule the handicap spaces cannot be utilized during the street sweeping days which affect the need of the spaces. He stated that the Department of Public Works could clean the area in front of the Library manually. Fidel Maltez made a motion to remove the street sweeping signs in front of the Library and have the area cleaned by hand. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.



Item #5 - Communication of September 8, 2021 from Aaron Kraemer, requesting the Commission to look into installing a fully functioning traffic light at Cary Square.

Aaron Kraemer explained that when trying to cross at Cary Square, no one stops and obeys the red light signal from pressing the button. He stated that it is a very busy intersection and it is not safe to cross. He asked if it is possible to have the streetlights fully functioning so that vehicles will slow down and stop at the light. Alex Train stated that his department is currently looking into this intersection. He stated that the traffic engineers are looking into how to make this intersection more pedestrian safe. Renee Hibbard stated that she owns property in this area and finds this intersection to be very dangerous. Alex Train made a motion to table this request until the next meeting. Steven Purcell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 - Communication of September 9, 2021 from Fidel Maltez of the Department of Public Works, requesting to move the bus stop at the intersection of Jefferson and Washington Avenue back by ten to fifteen feet.

Fidel Maltez stated that the Beautification Committee submitted this request to him. He stated that the buses stop on the crosswalk and it is a public safety concern for pedestrians. He stated that by extending the bus stop by ten feet, it will allow the bus enough space to stop without being on the crosswalk. He stated that this change would result in eliminating one parking space. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 - Communication of September 13, 2021 from James D'Amico, requesting the removal of the handicap sign at 70 Hawthorn Street.

Rosa Santiago Melendez stated that this request was given to her from the property owner of 70 Hawthorn Street. She stated that the applicant no longer lives at the address and there are new tenants there. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 - Communication of September 14, 2021 from Fidel Maltez of the Department of Public Works, requesting the approval of the reduction of one parking spot due to the MASSDOT reconstruction of the Fifth Street parking lot.

Fidel Maltez stated that MASSDOT has finalized the construction in the parking lot on Fifth Street. He stated that MASSDOT was unable to accommodate the original sixteen spaces in the lot. He stated that due to the reconstruction, they were only able to accommodate fifteen spaces. He stated that the parking lot is now fully operational. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #9 - Communication of September 15, 2021 from Richard Gopen of Chelsea Harborview LLC, requesting the Commission to look into remediation measures to reduce the disproportionate number of car accidents in front of 300-310 Washington Avenue.

Rosa Santiago Melendez stated that she received an email from Richard Gopen withdrawing his request. No vote taken.

Item #10 - Communication of September 15, 2021 from Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, requesting the Commission to look into changing Clark Avenue from a two-way to a one-way street, from Webster Avenue to Eleanor Street.

Councilor Vega Maldonado stated that she was the Councilor for District two and residents in that area have called her regarding their concerns with speeding and accidents on Clark Avenue. She stated that the residents would like to have the Commission make Clark Avenue a one-way street, between Eleanor Street and Webster Avenue. She stated that the request is to make that section of Clark Avenue a one-way in the same direction as Clark Avenue from Eleanor Street to Cary Avenue. She read two correspondences from two residents, Caleb, of 112 Clark Avenue, and Giovanni, of 145 ½ Clark Avenue, in favor of the request. She stated that she also has provided a petition from several other residents in the area. She stated that the street is very congested and when vehicles are coming from Webster Avenue, heading towards Eleanor Street, the visibility is an issue when coming up the hill. She stated that when two vehicles are coming in opposite directions, there is not enough room for them to pass each other and end up side-swiping parked vehicles. She noted that her mother's vehicle was one of them. She also stated that as a concerned parent of a child with autism, she worries about her child being hit by a vehicle speeding up the hill. Alex Train stated that he would have the transportation engineers do an assessment of the area. Evelyn Hines, of 148 Clark Avenue, stated that the vehicles are using Clark Avenue as a cut through to get to the airport. She stated



that the vehicles coming from Webster Avenue tend to speed up the hill. She stated that one day she was standing at the corner of Webster and Clark Avenue and she was almost hit by a speeding vehicle. She stated that drivers are not aware of the configuration of the neighborhood and tend to speed. She stressed that it is dangerous for pedestrians. Alex Train made a motion to table this request pending the results of an assessment from the traffic engineers. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #11 - Communication of September 15, 2021 from Councilor Enio A. Lopez, requesting the Commission to look into the placement of speed tables to be located at 73 Marlborough Street and 150 Marlborough Street.

Councilor Lopez stated that this request is to put speed tables on Marlboro Street. He stated that he has received calls from residents on Marlboro Street with safety concerns for their children. He stated that there are vehicles speeding up the street all the time. He stated that a child was hit in front of the convenience store on Marlboro Street recently. Fidel Maltez stated that the Commission has received complaints regarding speeding concerns throughout the city. He stated the Department of Public Works has installed a speed radar sign on Marlboro Street. He stated that murals have been painted on the road to help vehicles slow down. He stated that the city has also replaced sidewalks in the area and will be installing two more speed radar signs. He noted that by the end of next month there will be three speed radar signs on Marlboro Street. Alex Train stated that he would be happy to have the transportation engineers explore the request to install speed tables. Alex Train made a motion to table the request pending further investigation until next meeting. Renee Hibbard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12 - Handicap sign removal at 850 Broadway as the applicant is nonresponsive to renewal requests.

Rosa Santiago Melendez stated a letter was sent to the applicant to update their file but the mail was returned. There has been no response from the applicant. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #13 - Communication of September 21, 2021 from ElHassan El God at 63 Winnisimmet Street, requesting a discussion on the safety concerns for children in the neighborhood due to speeding.

Fidel Maltez stated that the cobblestones on Winnisimmet Street would make it difficult for vehicles to speed. He recommends having the transportation engineers take a look at the area to see if there are any recommendations. Alex Train made a motion to table this request. Renee Hibbard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #14 - Communication of September 28, 2021 from Isael Gonzalez of the Salvation Army, requesting a thirty-minute loading zone at 258 Chestnut Street.

Isael Gonzalez stated that he is requesting the loading zone in front of the building to unload trucks making food deliveries. He stated they would need the spaces from 8 am to 1 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. He stated that the trucks are currently having to park around the corner which makes it difficult to unload the trucks. Alex Train noted that his department is in support of this request. He stated that the City Manager and himself have discussed the traffic issue when the trucks are making deliveries. He believes this would reduce the traffic while the trucks are making the deliveries. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #15 - Communication of September 28, 2021 from Chasen Failla, requesting the Commission to restrict or drastically reduce truck traffic through Chelsea residential areas.

Alex Train stated that the city has areas that have been determined by the State for truck exclusions. He stated that the State has a method to determine which areas of the city could have truck excluded. Chasen Failla, of 80 Park Street, stated that Park Street and Chelsea Square are very heavy traffic areas and are a hazard for pedestrians. He stated that there are a lot of trucks traveling towards Central Avenue from Park Street. Alex Train stated that the Commission would need to check with the State to see if it is feasible to propose a truck exclusion in this area. Alex Train made a motion to table this request pending further investigation. Steven Purcell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #16 - Communication of September 28, 2021 from Fidel Maltez of the Department of Public Works, requesting the Commission to extend the outdoor dining program by twelve months.



Fidel Maltez stated that there are three restaurants looking to continue outdoor dining. He stated that the original request was approved and to be reviewed in October. He stated that he would like to grant them the approval for the next twelve months. Alex Train stated that he hopes on making this successful and is optimistic to see more outdoor dining. Steven Purcell commented that one location is too close to a crosswalk. He asked that the crosswalk must be marked better. Alex Train noted that the Commission would approve the parklet but the dining program must have the approval of the Licensing Department. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request to extend the outdoor dining parklet program by twelve months. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #17 - Communication of September 29, 2021 from Santiago Hair Style, Khelsea's Pizzeria, Magic Shears Beauty Salon and Cary Square Associates, requesting the reconsideration of the MBTA Bus Stop relocation at Cary Square due to increased safety and health concerns for the neighborhood.

Marvin Dionne stated that he visits Khelsea's Pizza frequently with his grandson. He states that they like to sit outside to eat. He stated now with the bus's stopping there in front of the restaurant, it difficult to eat with the fumes from the exhaust. He also stated that it took away parking in front of the restaurant. Fidel Maltez stated that the bus stop is now set up for one bus to stop for a layover. He stated that vehicles are not able to park there because it is a bus stop and pedestrians would have to stand in the street to get on the bus. Marvin Dionne stated that he would just like to enjoy a meal and not ingest fumes. Fidel Maltez stated when a bus has a layover the other needs to be able to pull in so the pedestrians could get on the bus safely. He spoke with the MBTA to have the bus stop relocated to the other side of Bloomingdale Street. He stated that we would need to move the request to a public hearing. Aida Crue stated that her business has been there for twenty years. She stated her customers are not able to find parking. She stated that pedestrians waiting for the bus are leaving trash and cigarette butts all over the front of her salon. Councilor Yamir Rodriguez stated that he thinks this change came at the wrong time. He stated that this location makes it dangerous for children going to the restaurant. He stated that the main focus is to move the bus stop away from the businesses. Henry Cordero stated that he frequently visits the businesses in this area. He asked why they cannot have the buses layover at the Heard Street bus stop. He stated that the buses are running for fifteen minutes at a time and releasing fumes. Fidel Maltez stated that the layover for the buses benefits the residents. Aaron Kraemer asked why we could not move the layover buses to Cary Avenue in front of the synagogue. Alex Train made a motion to move the request to a public hearing with a new plan from MBTA. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Rosa Santiago Melendez
Assistant Parking Clerk