



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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Police Chief Brian A. Kyes
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Sergeant John Noftle
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 September 7, 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 6:04 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Officer Richard Bellomo. 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 Carolyn Boumila-Vega were present.

Item #2 - Approval of the minutes from the June 1, 2021 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 - Communication of March 8, 2021, from resident Jillian Jenkins, requesting to install a blinking red light at the corner of Parker Street and Clark Avenue.

Alex Train stated that this request was presented to the Commission because of safety concerns at the intersection. He explained that the city had a study done by TEC, which is the city's transportation consultant, of the intersection and submitted a couple of recommendations. He stated that one of the recommendations was to install a blinking light. He stated that presently the Department of Public Works along with the Department of Community and Housing Development were working on implementing this recommendation. He stated that they are planning to do the work under a transportation, pavement and marking contract. He stated that he considers this request closed. No vote taken.

Item #4 - Handicap sign application of April 30, 2021 from Leticia Prudencio Chavez, at 46 Orange Street.

Rosa Santiago Melendez reminded the members that this request was submitted to the Commission at the previous meeting and required further investigation regarding the status of a current applicant at the same address. Paul Nowicki confirmed with the Secretary that the previous applicant has moved. Alex Train asked the applicant if she is currently able to use the handicap parking spaces in the area. Leticia Prudencio stated that she tries to use the spaces but finds notes left on her vehicle stating that the signs belong to other applicants. Alex Train stated that she is able to use the spaces as the signs are for use by any handicap placard holder. He suggested if the issue continues that she report it to the police. Alex Train made a motion to approve this application by transferring the current sign application to this applicant. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 - Communication of May 19, 2021 from Argelia Sanitzo of Chelsea Dental Assoc., requesting multiple hearings on parking spaces at 109 Washington Avenue.

Dr. Ponnudural Guna stated that last year the Commission had approved two-hour parking with the exception of resident permit in front of his business. He stated that it limits the access for his patients to park because there is never any parking. He stated that it should be coin operated parking instead. He explained that it has been a struggle for his patients to park when visiting his office. He has lost most of his patients because they come from neighboring towns and have a hard time finding somewhere to park. He stated that the two-hour parking does not help his situation. He stated that the six parking spaces should be coin operated. Fidel Maltez stated that the request for resident parking only was brought to the Commission from residents who were not able to find parking because of people parking along this route to take the bus or train into Boston. Dr. Ponnudural Guna asked why the could not give his business visitor passes like in Cambridge. Alex Train empathized with his situation but the city does not have any passes in our program like that. He explained that we are not able to create a pass for that. Rosa Santiago Melendez confirmed the Resident Parking Program does not have a pass for businesses like that. A visitor pass would not help his situation because the issue is not the need for a pass but rather that parking is very difficult



in this residential area. Dr. Ponnudural Guna stated that he would need those spaces dedicated to his business with the use of a business visitor's pass. Alex Train suggested to table the request in order to take two to three weeks to review this internally. He stated that the Commission will spend a few weeks to try and find a solution. Alex Train made a motion to table the request until the next meeting pending further investigation. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 - Communication of May 19, 2021 from Paul Nowicki of the Chelsea Housing Authority, requesting a discussion on traffic concerns at the intersection of Locke Street and Webster Avenue.

Fidel Maltez stated that he was working with Paul Nowicki and had two speed radars installed. He stated that the Department of Public Works had box marking painted on the intersection. Paul Nowicki informed Fidel Maltez that making a left turn into Locke Street has been easier. He stated that he has spoken to Paul Nowicki after these changes have been made and was told that they have made a difference. Fidel Maltez made a motion to close this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 - Public Hearing to receive comment on a request for the approval of the bus stop improvement at Park and Hawthorn Street.

Fidel Maltez stated that the MBTA sent a communication to the Commission in June of 2021 requesting the approval to raise the crosswalks at the Early Learning Center. He stated that the area is very congested. He agreed with the proposed changes, in that they would make getting on the bus easier and crossing safer for the parents and children. Alex Train made a motion to accept the request as illustrated. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 - Public Hearing to receive comment on the request to eliminate one parking spot along Second Street, between Broadway and Winnisimmet Street, due to a refurbishment project at Chelsea Square and Second Street.

Alex Train stated that this request is related to a forth coming project that the city will be taking on this fall. He stated that the project will upgrade sidewalks, handicap ramps and lighting along Second Street, between Broadway and Winnisimmet Street. He stated that the street will be elevated to better connect with Chelsea Square. He stated that the proposed project will make the area more conducive; however, as a result, one parking space will be eliminated. Fidel Maltez stated that this area is used for public events and is starting to draw more residents to the area. He stated that this project would make the area friendlier and safer for pedestrians. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve this request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #9 - Handicap sign application of December 4, 2020 from Santos Miranda, at 75 Congress Avenue.

Rosa Santiago Melendez informed the members that the application was approved on a temporary basis on January 5, 2021, pending the applicant's needs after her surgery. Santos Miranda informed the members that she had surgery but she is unable to walk long distances and will undergo another surgery. She asked the Commission to approve her application on a permanent basis. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #10 - Handicap sign application of June 17, 2021 from Steven Valladares Alvarez, at 142 Chestnut Street.

Maura Alvarez stated she is Steven's mother. She stated he has down syndrome and had open heart surgery. She stated that it is very difficult to find parking close to her home. Sometimes she has to park far away and it is difficult to walk with her son such lengthy distances. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #11 - Handicap sign application of June 25, 2021 from Rafael Menjivar, at 8 Reynolds Avenue.

Rafael Menjivar stated he had a liver transplant and has fallen which affected his legs. He stated that he is unable to walk long distances. He stated that parking is very difficult in his area. Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Carolyn Boumilla-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12 - Communication of August 3, 2021 from Fidel Maltez of the Department of Public Works, requesting the removal of the "No Parking During School Hours" signs on Broadway at St. Rose School.



Fidel Maltez stated that the signs are no longer needed as the Saint Rose School is closed. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve the request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #13 - Handicap sign application of August 5, 2021 from Diemyre Louis Jean, at 824 Broadway.

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

Item #14 - Communication of August 10, 2021, from Fidel Maltez of the Department of Public Works, requesting to modify the traffic signal and intersection markings at Spruce Street and Everett Avenue.

Fidel Maltez stated that the city traffic engineer did a study on the intersection. He stated that many vehicles making a left turn onto Everett Avenue, from Spruce Street, start creeping into the intersection. He stated it is difficult for them to make the turn with traffic coming in the opposite direction. He stated that the request is to dedicate a left turn with an arrow marking on the street and a dedicated streetlight. Alex Train stated that there are two lanes and it will not have much effect on traffic but will help with safety issues. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve the request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #15 - Handicap sign application of August 11, 2021 from Eric Jovel, at 139 Bloomingdale Street.

Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve the request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #16 - Communication of August 16, 2021 from Edward Medros of the Walnut Street Synagogue, requesting parking relief on High Holidays at the Synagogue from September 6-16, 2021.

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

Item #17 - Communication of September 1, 2021 from Ben Cares, Department of Housing and Community Development, requesting to institute pedestrian safety measures, bus stop improvements, and bike lanes on Hawthorn Street, adjacent to the Early Learning Center.

Alex Train stated that this request is advancing the design of pedestrian safety measures on Hawthorn Street and Central Avenue. He stated that this is a walking route to the school and there have been a high cluster of accidents. He stated that the plans show painted curb extensions, new crosswalks and it explores a bike lane on Hawthorn Street. He noted that his department is exploring if a revision of the bike lane is feasible in this area. He stated that they are proposing a shared travel lane for bicyclists on Hawthorn Street. He stated that upon approval of the plan, the implementation will start in the fall and completed by December. Fidel Maltez stated this request is in line with the safety improvement around the Early Learning Center. He stated that the plan would increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Fidel Maltez made a motion to approve this request with a shared bike lane. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #18 - Handicap sign removal at 265 Maple Street as the applicant has moved.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #19 - Handicap sign removal at 46 Orange Street as the applicant has moved.

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

Item #20 - Handicap sign removal at 26 Blossom Street as the applicant has moved.

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

Item #21 - Handicap sign removal at 5 John Street as the applicant no longer qualifies for the program.

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

Item #22 - Handicap sign removal at 57 Addison Street per applicant no longer needed.



Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #23 - Handicap sign removal at 38 Hancock Street as the applicant has passed away.

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

Item #24 - Handicap sign removal at 131 Walnut Street as the applicant has passed away.

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

Item #25 - Handicap sign removal at 160 Spencer Avenue as the applicant has passed away.

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

Item #26 - Handicap sign removal at 143 Orange Street as the applicant has passed away.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #27 - Handicap sign removal at 74 Garland Street as the applicant has passed away.

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

Item #28 - Handicap sign removal at 7 Clinton Street as applicant is nonresponsive to renewal requests.

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

Item #29 - Handicap sign removal at 73 Maverick Street as the applicant has passed away.

Alex Train made a motion to approve the request. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #30 - 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 there are a couple of different options that could be considered. They could add that section of Broadway with the morning Broadway street sweeping schedule or they can add handicap spaces to Library Street or Marlboro Street. He stated that Lisa Santagate was not able to make the meeting and he will reach out to her to see what she was looking to do. Fidel Maltez made a motion to table this request until the next meeting pending further investigation. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Rosa Santiago Melendez, Assistant Parking Clerk