

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 2, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Jim Page, Assistant Chief of Police, for Eddie Adair

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Delora Siebrecht, Finance Department
Tammy Carson, 2704 Landis Farm Road
Dan Walsh, Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Thomas Berns, 109 Whitehall Court
Bruce Roth, Carle Foundation Hospital
Von Lambert, Carle Foundation Hospital

Meeting began at 4:09 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Jim Page seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of January 2004.

Item #1 - Discussion of parking along the west side of Race Street, south of Florida Avenue.

Joe Smith explained that this item had been discussed at a previous meeting and was postponed until residents impacted by the parking restrictions could be notified. Mr. Smith stated that he received an email from one of the residents who stated that eliminating all parking on the west side of Race Street would create problems for him since he conducts a weekly meeting at his home. In response to the resident's request to retain some parking on the west side of Race Street and to Mr. Berns' earlier request to improve turning capabilities for Florida Avenue traffic turning southbound onto Race Street, Mr. Smith suggested increasing the taper length for

vehicles turning onto Race Street, thereby eliminating some, but not all of the parking spaces along the west side of Race Street.

Tom Berns stated that increasing the taper length for turning vehicles would not solve the problem created by motorists from outside of the neighborhood parking on Race Street. He suggested that the resident ask those visiting his home to park on Meadows Drive and walk to his home instead of allowing parking on both sides of Race Street near Florida Avenue. Mr. Berns stated that he was concerned about vehicles being able to maneuver around the parked vehicles during hazardous road conditions. He added that there was a perpetual problem with people from outside of the neighborhood parking their vehicles on the west side of Florida Avenue and walking to campus to avoid paying campus parking fees.

Joe Smith suggested that the taper be increased by 45 feet (taper is currently 10 to 1 and will go to 19 to 1), which would eliminate three parking spaces leaving the remaining three spaces intact. He added that no accidents had been reported at that intersection.

Mr. Berns questioned if that suggestion would solve the problem of motorists from outside of the area parking on the street.

Some parking solutions were discussed.

Milton Otto stated that he sympathized with the neighborhood's concern about the vehicles parking in the area, but he felt that a ban on Race Street would push the vehicles to the other side of the street. He said that he was reluctant to remove parking since a resident requested that some parking on the west side of Race Street be allowed and no accidents had been reported at that intersection under the present design.

Joe Smith moved to extend the yellow curb 67 feet to the south, which would eliminate three parking spaces and improve turning movements onto Race Street. He stated that 66 feet of parking would remain.

Mr. Smith added that if changes were made on Bliss Drive that would impact this intersection, the Traffic Commission would look at the situation again.

Jim Page seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2 - Discussion of handicapped signage on Landis Farm Road.

Tammy Carson discussed her concern about speeding vehicles on Landis Farm Road. She stated that since this residential area was new, speed limit signs had not been installed. Ms. Carson was particularly concerned about traffic since her son had limited mobility and could not quickly move out of the street.

Joe Smith stated that the subdivision was new and that the second phase of the development would begin soon. He emphasized that the Traffic Commission does not allow "Children at Play" signage since every residential area in Urbana had children. He continued that adding the signage to every neighborhood would make the signage meaningless. Mr. Smith said that the Traffic Commission had allowed signage to warn motorists when they were in areas where children with disabilities could possibly be nearby.

Ms. Carson stated that she monitored her child whenever he was outside; she said that he occasionally rode his 4-wheeled battery-operated vehicle into the street. She was concerned that a motorist might be traveling too fast to avoid hitting her son.

Milton Otto reiterated that it was important that parents monitor children when they were playing outside. He stressed that the signage alone would not protect a child playing in the right-of-way or on the street.

Mr. Smith concurred that signage would not guarantee the safety of a child playing in the street. He strongly suggested that children should not play in the street.

Jim Page stated that as long as the sign was valid, it would be acceptable.

Joe Smith said that Ms. Carson would have to renew the request for the sign on a yearly basis. He stated that the City would send her a notice and that she would have to return the notice to allow the sign to remain. Mr. Smith added that the yearly renewal allowed the City to guarantee that the need for the signage was relevant.

Jim Page moved to install a "Disabled Child At Play" sign for southbound traffic at the northern property line of 2704 Landis Farm Road.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council approval.

Item #3 - Discussion of installation of a crosswalk on Main Street at Walnut Street.

Sheriff Dan Walsh discussed his concerns about pedestrians crossing Main Street to travel between the Champaign County Jail and the Champaign County Courthouse; and to travel between metered spaces on Walnut Street and Water Street, north of Main Street, and the courthouse. He stated that although motorists usually slowed for pedestrians, he requested a crosswalk be installed on Main Street at Walnut Street. He noted that most pedestrian traffic occurred between 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., particularly on the last Wednesday of each month.

Milton Otto stated that there were certain requirements that had to be met before a crosswalk could be installed.

Joe Smith said that at least 50 pedestrians during any peak hour would be required. He suggested completing a traffic count to make sure that the crossing meets the guidelines recently established by CUUATS (Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Traffic Study). Mr. Smith stated that he would discuss the results of the traffic count at the April Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4 - Discussion of parking on Busey Avenue near Carle Foundation Hospital.

Joe Smith discussed a request from Carle Foundation Hospital to allow restricted parking within City right-of-way for McCarthy Construction Company while the company was working on a project for the hospital. To help with the request, it was suggested that parking meters be installed within the right-of-way and then Carle Foundation Hospital request that the meters be bagged for the construction company.

Milton Otto stated that the City could not reserve on-street parking in an area where parking was not metered.

Delora Siebrecht said that the fee for bagging meters was \$10.00 per day per meter.

Joe Smith moved to establish a metered zone on Busey Avenue from 110 feet to 155 feet south of University Avenue.

Jim Page seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Carle Foundation Hospital representatives will be notified when the item goes to Council.

Item #5 - Discussion of changes to Local Traffic Code, Article VIII, Section 23-172.

Delora Siebrecht discussed the language of the Local Traffic Code, Article VIII, Section 23-172 regarding loading zones within the City of Urbana. She noted that the ordinance did not include loading zones that were established for the loading and unloading of anything other than people. She requested the language be changed from:

“No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle for any purpose for a period of item other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers in any place marked as a curb loading zone during hours when the regulations applicable to such curb loading zones are effective, and then only for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise posted.”

to:

“No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle for any purpose in any place marked as a curb loading zone during hours when the regulations applicable to such curb loading zones are effective, except that stopping, standing, or parking may occur in a curb loading zone for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers, goods, supplies, or deliveries, but then only for a period not to exceed the posted period of time. During hours when the regulations applicable to such curb loading zones are effective, stopping, standing or parking may occur as otherwise permitted.”

Milton Otto suggested amending the first sentence to read, “No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle for any purpose in any place marked as a curb loading zone during hours when the regulations applicable to such curb loading zones are in effect . . .” and the last sentence to read, “During hours when the regulations applicable to such curb loading zones are not in effect, stopping, standing or parking may occur as otherwise permitted.”

Jim Page moved to approve the changes to Local Traffic Code, Article VIII, Section 23-172 as amended.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #6 - Discussion of installation of “No Outlet” signage on North Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the changes that occurred as a result of the reconfiguration of North Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to install a “No Outlet” signage on North Lincoln Avenue.

Jim Page seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council approval.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary