

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 1, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Scott Aikman, Bread Company, 706 South Goodwin Avenue
Ian Goldberg, 708 South Goodwin Avenue

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the April 2007 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of expanding the loading zone on Goodwin Avenue, south of Oregon Street.

Joe Smith discussed the current situation for vehicles parking and loading in this area. He said that on Goodwin Avenue there was a loading zone in front of Classic Tan (710 South Goodwin Avenue) that extended to the southern edge of the Bread Company (706 South Goodwin Avenue). He added that there was a no parking from here to corner zone from the Bread Company to Espresso Royale (1117 West Oregon Street—Goodwin side). Mr. Smith stated that there were parking meters in front of Manolo's Pizza and Empanadas (1115 West Oregon Street). He added that there were empty parking spaces at that location when he took the pictures in the afternoon.

Ian Goldberg stated that he was in negotiations with the City and that Manolo's applied for and received a grant from the City. He said that during the negotiations, he mentioned that Manolo's intended to provide pizza delivery service. He continued by saying that the City did not want to give up parking spaces in an area where parking was very limited and discussed the possibility of expanding the loading zone on Goodwin Avenue to accommodate delivery vehicles. He expressed concern about the use of the loading zone since there was a 15 minute time limit for

parking in the area. He said that his delivery vehicles might require a time limit longer than 15 minutes and requested that the time limit be longer. He stated that he wanted to be able to have spaces available for his drivers.

Dennis Roberts asked if the Canopy Club and Manolo's were connected.

Mr. Goldberg said that they were. He said that he would like to have rental spaces available for his drivers.

Mr. Roberts stated that if spaces were rented to drivers, then fewer parking spaces would be available for customers.

Ian Goldberg said that he just wanted to be able to use the loading zone legally since there were uses of the area that were in violation of the current laws.

Shawn Crowley expressed concern about extending the loading zone so that it would be in front of the sidewalk café areas at the Bread Company and Espresso Royale. She also felt that semis might be forced to park in the street to unload if the loading zone was continually occupied by pizza delivery vehicles, which would add to the congestion already present in that area.

Ian Goldberg suggested that the loading zone be limited to certain hours of the day.

Mike Bily stated that the concept of the loading zone was to allow temporary parking for vehicles while their goods were unloaded or loaded and then the vehicles would leave. He said that loading zones were not intended as parking spaces for business vehicles and the Urbana Traffic Commission did not provide parking for specific businesses. He stated that the extension of the loading zone could not be extended enough to make any significant difference in the number of vehicles that could park there to unload.

Joe Smith stated that stop sign visibility was the reason for the no parking here to corner restriction. He continued by adding that the pedestrians and motorists approaching the intersection were having difficulty seeing traffic so the restriction was implemented to improve visibility at that intersection.

Ian Goldberg asked if the City could step up its enforcement of the parking restriction. He said that many vehicles use the no parking zone as a loading zone.

Mike Bily said that the extension of the loading zone would not be a possible solution.

Dennis Roberts suggested approaching the University of Illinois to see if he could rent parking spaces.

Mr. Goldberg stated that he was unsuccessful in obtaining spaces from the U of I.

Scott Aikman suggested that Mr. Goldberg try to rent spaces from Ramshaw/Smith. He added that Ramshaw/Smith owned a private parking lot in that area and might rent spaces.

Ian Goldberg stated that he would look into that.

Mr. Aikman said that he felt the loading zone provided adequate space for vehicles to load and unload. He said that he had never seen vehicles sitting for a long time trying to unload. He also said that he did not feel that parking for business vehicles was a City problem. He also expressed concern about sidewalk café patrons being exposed to fumes from parked delivery trucks. He suggested that loading zone parking should be for customers who want to run into businesses to pick up food items and then leave. He added that parking in front of a business should be for that business.

Dennis Roberts stated that on-street parking did not belong to any particular business.

Ian Goldberg said that he usually had two to three vehicles on call for deliveries.

Mike Bily asked if any room would be gained by moving the loading zone and meters.

Mr. Goldberg said that Espresso Royale might object to the change. He said that he was frustrated that the City had accommodated others, but that the City was not willing to accommodate him. He mentioned that there were rental spaces on Goodwin Avenue and Oregon Street, but that he was told that the City no longer provided rental spaces on the street. He wanted to know why those spaces still existed.

Mike Bily said that the City was still trying to work on a solution.

Dennis Roberts stated that even if the loading zone was expanded, it still would not provide long-term parking for the pizza delivery vehicles.

Ian Goldberg asked if the loading zone time limit could be extended.

Mr. Aikman asked if there could be a space for customers to use to run in to grab a cup of coffee.

Dennis Roberts stated that the parking restrictions and loading zone could not be changed.

Shawn Crowley asked if a bowtie could be added to the loading zone sign that would read, "Commercial Vehicles Only."

Ian Goldberg stated that the loading zone was not enforced fairly. He asked that it be strictly enforced.

Dennis Roberts stated that if a person parked in a loading zone, they would run the risk of getting a ticket. He said that there are plans to reconfigure that area in the future.

Mr. Aikman and Mr. Goldberg asked if they could be involved in the discussion for that change.

Ian Goldberg asked how the time limit for the loading zone was enforced.

Shawn Crowley stated that Parking Enforcement used chalk marks, took pictures, and used odometer readings to enforce the time limit.

Dennis Roberts emphasized that the loading zone was not intended as a parking area, it was intended for delivering items to businesses.

Mike Bily stated that the Ramshaw/Smith parking lot was a possibility that Mr. Goldberg could pursue. He asked that the rental spaces currently allowed in that area be investigated to determine the agreement for their use.

Joe Smith asked that Pat Pioletti and Delora Siebrecht be invited to the meeting to discuss the rental process. He asked that another sign be installed at the other end of the loading zone to define the loading zone area.

Scott Aikman asked if the area could be striped.

Joe Smith said that he would recommend the suggestions to the Operations Division.

Ian Goldberg asked if any vehicle could use the loading zone.

Shawn Crowley said that they recognize some business vehicles and others have signs or markings that identify them as delivery vehicles.

Ian Goldberg asked if there could be leniency for his vehicles while the issue of where his delivery vehicles could park was being discussed.

Dennis Roberts stated that they could not waive the parking restrictions.

Dennis Roberts moved to paint the loading zone with stripes, add a commercial vehicle only bow tie, and add an additional loading zone sign to define the loading zone area.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council consideration.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign at Skyline Drive and Airport Road.

Joe Smith stated that Skyline Drive recently was annexed into the City. He added that Skyline Drive was a minor street entering into a major collector (Airport Road). He stated that the installation of a stop sign met the warrants established by the MUTCD.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign on Skyline Drive for northbound traffic at Airport Road.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Illinois Street, east of Cottage Grove Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that there was congestion at the east leg of Illinois Street at Cottage Grove Avenue. He stated that when vehicles are parked on the south side of Illinois Street near the intersection, motorists turning eastbound had little room to maneuver when westbound traffic was stopped at the stop sign. Mr. Smith said that he spoke with the resident at the southeast corner of the intersection who was agreeable to the parking restrictions.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the south side of Illinois Street from the center line of Cottage Grove Avenue to approximately 70 feet east of the centerline of Cottage Grove Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go the Council for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 5, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary