

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 3, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Willene Howard, 916 North Harvey Street
Irene Halcrombe, 917 North Harvey Street
Frankie Johnson, 807 North Harvey Street
Samuel Johnson, 807 North Harvey Street

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the April 2008 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking in the 300 block of West Springfield Avenue.

Dennis Roberts discussed a request for two-hour parking restrictions along the 300 block of West Springfield Avenue. Mr. Roberts mentioned that restrictions were approved at the April Traffic Commission meeting for restrictions on Birch Street. He suggested holding this item until the downtown parking study had been reviewed.

Joe Smith stated that he had discussed this matter with Bill Gray, the Public Works Director. He felt that the item should wait since the resident to the west of the Counseling Center had not been contacted about the discussion. Mr. Smith said that the resident should have an opportunity to discuss any hardships that might result from the restrictions. He mentioned that there were two-hour parking restrictions on Birch Street south of Elm Street and on Green Street that were empty. He suggested researching those restrictions to determine if the need for those restrictions still existed.

Dennis Roberts stated that the business owners in the 300 block brought the item to the Traffic Commission, but he agreed that the resident to the west should be contacted.

Joe Smith moved to postpone this item until the next Traffic Commission meeting, which would be July. Mr. Smith suggested that the business owners contact the management of the Opera House to see if there were any spaces under the building available for use.

Dennis Roberts suggested sending a meeting notice to residents within 250 feet of the area.

Joe Smith mentioned that parking was available behind the properties on Springfield Avenue, but he added that the parking was very limited.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will be discussed at the July Traffic Commission meeting.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of a loading zone on Harvey Street and Gregory Street for King Park.

Item #4 was moved before Item #2.

Joe Smith discussed a memo received from Tim Bartlett of the Urbana Park District, which endorsed the installation of loading zones on Harvey Street and Gregory Street.

Mr. Johnson discussed his concerns about traffic congestion that occurred on Harvey Street when there were events held in King Park. He suggested adding a loading zone that would connect Harvey Street and Gregory Street in a circle drive that would allow parking for vehicles while equipment was loading and unloading for use of the pavilion. Mr. Johnson requested parking inside of the King Park area.

Joe Smith stated that the City could not extend across the existing end of the streets since the property belonged to the Urbana Park District. He added that the City did not want to allow parking in the existing turn-arounds since parking would restrict traffic maneuvering at the end of the streets and would block access to driveways.

Ms. Halcrombe stated that King Park was designed to have events for the neighborhood. She added that she would not have a problem with visitors to the park loading and unloading equipment, but she had concerns about vehicles blocking her driveway and then being left there.

Dennis Roberts suggested that the Urbana Park District provide parking for park users if there were no on-street parking areas for loading and unloading. He asked if the area where a house had been demolished could be used for parking.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that the park district was concerned about vehicles parking in the park after it was closed at dusk.

Mr. Roberts stated that he hoped that other solutions might be available besides parking in front of properties on Harvey Street.

Ms. Halcrombe stated that she had frequently contacted the Police Department because people park in front of her driveway and refuse to move even when asked by the residents. She mentioned that the Police and Fire Departments have had difficulty travelling down Harvey Street when vehicles are parked near King Park.

Dennis Roberts suggested that a meeting needed to occur with the Urbana Park District, the City of Urbana and the neighborhood to see if any solutions to parking could be reached.

Joe Smith moved to hold on any action until the concerned parties met and reached a decision. He added that the City would not condone removing the parking restrictions at the end of Harvey Street and Gregory Street.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Kenyon Road, east of Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the plans for a new hotel, Wisley Inn, to locate on Kenyon Road, east of Lincoln Avenue. He stated that Kenyon Road had been abandoned, but that the development would include the improvement of the roadway. He added that the road would be 24 feet in width and recommended that parking be eliminated on both sides of the street.

Joe Smith moved to eliminate parking on both sides of Kenyon Road from Killarney Street to the end of Kenyon Road.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration as the project is nearer to completion.

Item #4- Discussion of parking in loading zones near 702 East Mumford Drive and Anderson Street on Sundays for church attendance.

Mr. Williams, who requested that this item be discussed at the Traffic Commission meeting, was unable to attend due to the excessive rains that fell earlier in the week. He had asked that this item be moved to the July meeting.

Joe Smith did state that there was adequate on-street parking in the area. He mentioned that the Urbana School District did not want the church to use the school parking lot.

Dennis Roberts moved to postpone the item until the July Traffic Commission meeting.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of school zone signage at 2501 Myra Ridge Drive (Little Hearts and Hands Day Care Center).

Joe Smith discussed the request from the Little Hearts and Hands Day Care Center to install school zone signage near 2501 Myra Ridge Drive. He added that the school would expand to include classroom instruction for grades Kindergarten through second grade beginning in the fall.

Pat Connolly moved to install school zone signage near 2501 Myra Ridge Drive for the Little Hearts and Hands Day Care Center.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Item #6- Discussion of two-way traffic flow on Gregory Street between Oregon Street and Nevada Street.

No action was taken since the street is a University of Illinois' street.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held July 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary