

MINUTES
PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, July 11, 2013
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chair
John Bohenko, City Manager
Stephen Dubois, Police Chief
Peter Rice, Public Works Director
Carl Roediger, Deputy Fire Chief
Ronald Cypher, Member
Shari Donnermeyer, Member
Ted Gray, Member
Harold Whitehouse, Member

Staff Advisors Present:

Mark Nelson, Parking Division Director
Tom Cocchiaro, Parking Operations Supervisor

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Gray moved to accept the minutes of June 13, 2013, seconded by Mr. Cypher. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

City Manager Bohenko moved to accept the Financial Report and place on file. Seconded by Public Works Director Rice and passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion Item: Status of Signage tasks

Parking and Transportation Director Nelson distributed several photographs illustrating the new signage that has been erected at the CCC Lot, Masonic Lot, Campus Drive and McIntyre Lot.

Ms. Donnermeyer asked if parking is allowed in the McIntyre Lot on Saturdays and Sundays and are people aware of this as the signage has a lot of verbiage. Parking and Transportation Director Nelson stated that the federal government requires specific things to be on the signs. City Manager Bohenko stated yes it is available on weekends and people have been utilizing it.

Parking and Transportation Director Nelson further stated that there are sandwich board signs currently placed at the newly available Vaughan Street lot which will be replaced with permanent signs.

B. Discussion Item: Status of Union St “No Thru Trucks” and Stealth Stat data

Parking and Transportation Director Nelson stated that a review of the ordinances show 40+ streets with limitations but none are on Union Street. He stated that the Legal Department has indicated that there are not specific requirement to place a street in one of these schedules and there are other similar streets that appear on the lists.

City Manager Bohenko moved to accept and place on file, seconded by Mr. Gray Motion passed.

Police Chief Dubois explained that the Stealth Stat Unit was placed on Union Street and came back with an 85 percentile speed of 27 mph with a posted speed of 20 mph. He stated that there have been 40 stops on Union Street in the last year and enforcement will continue to be stepped up in the area.

Public Works Director Rice stated that the upcoming road construction on Union Street will include traffic calming measures which will also help minimize speed.

C. Discussion Item: Sharrows on Daniel and State Streets

City Manager Bohenko explained that the City will be implementing a pilot program of Shared Lane Markings for bicyclists on State Street and Daniel Streets and a press release will be issued announcing the initiative.

Public Works Director Rice stated that these will be installed in August.

D. Action Item: 432 Islington St request for parking restriction

Mr. Gray stated a site walk was held at the request of Ms. Beaudet.

Mr. Gray moved to eliminate a parking space to the left of driveway at 432 Islington Street and place 2 “No parking between signs” and crosshatching installed, seconded by Mr. Whitehouse.

Chief Dubois stated there have been 3 accidents in the area, with one directly related to this location. He stated these measures will make the area safer.

Motion passed. (This Item is enacted as a temporary regulation and will be considered for inclusion in a future omnibus ordinance)

E. Action Item: Crosswalks at Marcy/South/Pleasant intersection

Mr. Whitehouse stated a site walk was held and the area is very congested as there are 4 streets that come together at this point. He stated there are many pedestrians and bicyclists and feels that a new configuration is needed to alleviate the problem.

Mr. Whitehouse moved to accept and place on file with a report back at a later date and review for possible inclusion in the CIP, seconded by Mr. Cypher. Motion passed.

F. Action Item: 118 Maplewood Ave request to restore meters

Mr. Whitehouse stated a site walk was held and it was determined that there was room for approximately 9 spaces.

Mr. Whitehouse moved to create 9 Pay and Display parking spaces on the westerly side of Maplewood Avenue from Raynes Avenue to the Cemetery. Seconded by Public Works Director Rice and voted. (*This Item is enacted as a temporary regulation and will be considered for inclusion in a future omnibus ordinance*)

G. Action Item: Banfield Road traffic speed near Ocean Road

Mr. Cypher stated a site walk was held at the request of a resident who reported that since the railroad has been abandoned and the stop sign removed, the speeds have increased. He stated she is requesting 2 stops be installed, but stop signs cannot be placed to control speeds. He stated she also is concerned with the lack of guardrails next to culverts as there have been incidents with drivers going into the culverts. He stated the following items are suggested as a motion:

Mr. Cypher moved to (1) review the possibility of placing flashing yellow lights on Banfield Road and flashing red lights at Heritage and Constitution Avenues dependent on budget availability; (2) install guardrails at the identified culverts and (3) place the Stealth Stat unit in the area when available, seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no speakers.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL:

Mr. Whitehouse stated he saw the legal notice in the paper regarding a bid for 40 bicycle racks and wonders if these are replacing old racks or being installed in new places.

Transportation Planner Juliet Walker explained that these are being purchased through a grant from COAST bus which are to be placed in proximity to bus stops. She continued that they will be replacing some existing racks and also have identified some priority areas to install new racks i.e., Prescott Park, City Hall, Discover Portsmouth, etc. She stated she will keep the committee updated as they are installed.

Chairman Smith asked if there are bike racks at the Vaughan Mall. Transportation Planner Walker stated that there are racks at each end, but that area is being reviewed as well.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

City Manager Bohenko moved to adjourn at 8:15 a.m., seconded by voted unanimously.