

Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2018

Attendance: Stan Koty, Mark Niedergang, Thomas Graney, James Polito

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Terence Smith, Mike Tremblay

Other: David Webster, Singroath Huy, Kevin Leng, Josh Van Dyke, Erjona Van Dyke, Matt Roman

Meeting was held at the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Minutes from the December 21, 2017 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

Mark Niedergang made a motion to suspend the rules and take items out of order

**Item #6 – Request for Loading Zone (Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm)  
88 Broadway**

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking does not support the request. The spaces are currently metered and serve the entire business district. Traffic and Parking is proposing the hours of 8am-12noon for the loading zone and revert back to metered parking from 12 noon to 8pm.
- Mr. Huy, business owner explained the meters do not provide a quick enough turnaround time as they can be occupied for up to 2 hours.
- Suzanne Rinfret asked if they were looking for customer parking or loading zone and Mr. Huy explained both as the loading zone would allow for 5 minute passenger vehicle parking. Ms. Rinfret stated the customers could use the meters as they have 15 minute increments. The Chair believes the meters will be tied up mostly for the max time allowed and allow for very little turn over.
- The Chair stated he hates to see a new business fail and recommended the item be tabled to allow the applicant to meet with Traffic and Parking to work out a solution.
- Alderman Niedergang agreed and would like the loading zone approved from 8am-12 noon at this time with the potential of a future agenda item requesting additional restrictions based on the meeting between the business owners and Traffic and Parking.

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to Approve with the amended hours of Mon-Sat 8am-12noon for a 90 day trial period, 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #3 – Request for Pick Up/Drop Off Live Parking Only  
360 Foley St – in front of new development/hotel**

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking has no objection to the request.

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #7** – Request to convert approximately 4 parking spaces (80 ft) on the north side of Washington St (in the vicinity of 197 Washington St) **from** 2 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8am-2:30am and Permit Parking Only 2:30am-8am **to** 15 Minute Parking 8am-10pm and Permit Parking Only 10pm-8am

- Mike Tremblay, OSPCD, amended the location to adjacent to the crosswalk opposite Rossmore St in an effort to make the spaces more visible to approaching vehicles. He stated the owner of the café at this location asked for these changes for quicker turnover of the parking spaces.
- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking hasn't fully vetted the request but is concerned at the amount of spaces being requested and the time limits. The Chair asked about approving on a trial basis and Mr. Smith stated he had no objection on a trial basis.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to Approve, as amended, for a 90 day trial period, 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item#2** – Request for No U-Turn  
Porter St at Highland Av (resident correspondence attached)

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking does not support this request. Highland Av is 39.6ft with one travel lane in each direction and parking on both sides and Porter St is 26.4ft with bidirectional travel and no parking on the east side of the street. It is a 'T' intersection with no driveway on Highland Av opposite Porter St. The geometry and configuration of the intersection does not encourage U-turns and Traffic and Parking is not aware of any U-turn problem at this location.
- Lt. Polito stated he asked his officers and they have not seen any problems with U-turns at this location.
- Alderman Niedergang stated he is not qualified to weigh in however the resident making the request is a reliable and responsible person.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to Deny, 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0, request is denied**

**Item #5** – Request to rescind the turning restrictions at the following locations and replace with Do Not Enter, 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm except city residents and bicycles:

- a) Broadway at Victoria St
- b) Broadway at Garrison Av
- c) Broadway at Farragut Av

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking does not support peak hour turning restrictions as they do not convey a clear message and are confusing to the motorist. Unless there is a police presence the signs are unenforceable and ineffective and diminish the respect for all other regulatory signs. Traffic and Parking does not support this request.
- Lt. Polito stated the police have major difficulty with the numerous amounts of these restrictions and agrees they are ineffective unless there is a police presence there.
- Alderman Niedergang stated he supports the request and his two colleagues in this area think it will be helpful. He believes many people will obey the signs and they will have value.
- The Chair called for a roll call vote. Lt. Polito votes No; Thomas Graney votes Yes; Alderman Niedergang votes Yes, The Chair votes Yes. The motion passes 3-1.

**The Motion is approved by a 3-1 majority roll call vote.**

**Item #8** – Request for the temporary relocation of the Union Square Hubway Station to Bonner Av, east side, just north of Washington St for a distance of 50ft (removing approximately 3 parking spaces). The spaces will be restored as soon as work impacting Union Square Plaza is completed in the fall of 2018.

- Mike Tremblay stated the current location is in Ward 2, the proposed location is in Ward 3; both Aldermen are in favor of the request.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #4** – Request to extend existing Fire Lane  
Woodbine St, north side, extend the existing fire lane to a total length of 280ft, to cover the entire length in front of the new complex

- Matt Roman, developer, handed out a site plan to the members.
- Terence Smith stated the initial fire lane was 158ft long, the length of the prior building. The new building will be closer to 200ft and will extend the existing restriction by 75ft.
- Thomas Graney stated the way the signs are currently posted the extension will be 23ft.
- Matt Ronan stated the fire lane makes sense, he noted sidewalks will be put in with the development and as such he believes cars will not park their whether the space is marked or not. He also noted the project is 5 months from completion.
- The Chair recommends tabling the item until the fire department, traffic engineer, and property owner can come to an agreement on the current and future situation.
- Terence Smith stated since this is a private way any questions should be referred to the City Solicitor.
- Alderman Niedergang stated his concern at the tension around parking in this location other businesses and agrees a meeting is a good idea to clarify any confusion. He requested the city invite Mr. Lynch from Boston Closet to the meeting.
- The Chair recommends a meeting take place with the business owners, fire department, traffic engineer, and city solicitor and report back to the commission next month.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to Table the item until next month, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.**

#### **Prior Business**

**Item #9** – Request for Handicapped Parking  
279 Medford St (previously approved for a 90 day trial period in October 2017)

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking has not received any complaints and has no objection to permanent approval.

**Alderman Niedergang made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Lt. Polito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.**