

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of October 24, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Benbow, Chairperson
Norris Turner, District 1
Denise Gonzalez, District 2
Charles Coronado, District 3
Gene Eldridge, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

David L. Esparza, Assistant City Manager
Louis A. Atwell, Public Works Director
Harry Frisby, Jr., Public Services Superintendent
Keith Lockard, Principal Transportation Engineer
Lt. Fried, Police Department
Danita Meshack, Assistant to Public Works Director
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

I. Roll Call of Commissioners and Call to Order by Chairperson

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael Benbow at 7:04 p.m.

All Commissioners were in attendance.

Principal Transportation Engineer Keith Lockard introduced the new Assistant City Manager David L. Esparza, the new Public Works Director Louis A. Atwell, and Assistant to the Public Works Director Ms. Danita Meshack.

II. Approval of Minutes for July 25, 2012 and August 27, 2012.

Mr. Keith Lockard reported that the minutes were not fully edited in time for this meeting.

III. Public Comments (comments on items not listed on the agenda).

None.

IV. Referral from City Council or City Departments:

a. 2nd Avenue south of Manchester Boulevard Parking

Mr. Lockard discussed the staff report and letter dated September 11, 2012, with a petition requesting no time limit parking restrictions on the west side of 2nd Avenue. Commissioner Turner said he spoke to both proponents and opponents on several occasions. He told them he could not make a decision, but that they should come to a Parking and Traffic Commission meeting with their petition.

Chairperson Benbow opened the meeting for the residents to speak.

1. Louise Monroe - 9307 Second Avenue. She stated the No. 442 bus stops on Manchester near 2nd Avenue. She has physical challenges and cannot walk too far. Parking on the west side of the street would be helpful to her. She proposes a solution

to benefit businesses and residents who parks there. With four hour parking sign removed on 2nd Avenue, 8 spaces would still have a time limit.

Parking on the west side of the street would be helpful to her. There are 16 spaces and 4 spaces in the alley way. She just wants a happy median for businesses and residents who park there. She would like the four hour parking signs removed on west side of 2nd Avenue. The people with businesses will still have about 12 spaces the east side of 2nd Avenue.

Chairperson Benbow asked how many bus users are parking there.

Ms. Monroe stated probably around 5 or 6 spaces are used by bus riders. Some people park more regularly than others but never more than 6 to 8.

2. Mickey Johnson, 2211 West 72nd Street. Ms. Johnson stated the majority of the bus riders are females. It is dangerous for females, so it makes it a safety issue, particularly with Daylight Savings Time around the corner.

Chairperson Benbow asked what time they park there.

Ms. Johnson said between 7:00 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

3. Emily Walker, Odell Walker Insurance and Income Tax, 2222 W. Manchester Blvd.: Ms Walker stated she and her husband own an insurance and income tax business there. Within that building, there is a beauty shop, a church and a doctor's office in the building. Due to the beauty shop business, sometimes there would be 5 or 6 parking spaces left. Often there were 12 cars parked there all day and clients would then go and park in the residential areas because of the overflow. Also, the landlord began receiving complaints. Ms. Walker said she is concerned about the availability of parking for the clients.

4. Odell Walker, 2222 W. Manchester Boulevard. Mr. Walker, husband of Mrs. Walker, said it was okay with 4-5 parked cars but now there are too many. There are about 12 or 13 parking there all day, and there are only 16 places. Also, there is a lot of traffic from the beauty shop. Mr. Walker said he didn't think they should deprive him of his right to park there.

Commissioner Turner said he visited the area 3 times and each time he took photos of the area. There were only a couple of cars on the east side and a couple of cars on the west side, probably because of the 4 hour parking sign that has been placed there.

Commissioner Turner said from the east side of 2nd Avenue there were no cars for the 3 days he visited.

Commissioner Eldridge asked where the bus stop is.

Ms. Monroe showed on the map the location of the bus stop stating it is on the southwest corner of Van Ness and Manchester. The bus runs from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4- 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Eldridge asked if something could be done about parking in the alley.

Ms. Monroe said that Mr. Walker informed her of a private lot and that perhaps his clients could park there. It is not feasible for women to go through the alley particularly as it gets darker. Ms. Monroe said Mr. Walker said someone would contact me but so far, no one has. Ms. Monroe said she lives on 2nd Avenue and would like to be able to park in there.

Ms. Walker said making parking available on the west side of the street would not be a problem at this time since some of the offices in the building are vacant.

Chairperson Benbow asked Commissioner Turner what time he took photos of the cars and were there any cars there at that time.

Commissioner Turner said there were no cars there at that time apparently due to the parking sign. They probably stopped parking there because of the 4 hour time zone.

Commissioner Turner said he examined the various possibilities of parking for the residents and the problems they would entail. One of those problems would be that it is a privately-owned parking lot and one risks being towed away.

Commissioner Turner said he looked at the beauty shop and vacant lot and saw the dilemma of the private parking lot.

Commissioner Turner said the beauty shop has their personal parking of 4 slots. There is ample enough parking if there are only 8 or 9 parking and enough for Mr. Walker to the east all by himself.

Commissioner Turner said there is a church there and no cars were there when he surveyed the area where you have about 4 or 5 suites. Commissioner Turner thought these could be divided among everyone but 4 hour parking sign should be removed.

Mr. Walker said the parking lot belongs to the owner of the building and the owner allotted those spaces to the beauty shop. Customers have to park on 2nd Avenue.

Three suites in the building are vacant now but when they are rented out there could be a problem.

Commissioner Eldridge asked if diagonal parking is possible.

Commissioner Turner said there is no room for diagonal parking.

Commissioner Eldridge wanted to know what staff suggested.

Mr. Lockard stated staff does not have any specific city policy on which to base a recommendation regarding this situation. He suggested that the Commissioners' action should take community needs and values into account

Mr. Atwell asked is it possible to come up with a compromise where one side of the street is restricted for 4 hours or a combination of both so that these residents would be able to park as well as the customers for the businesses there and it could be restricted parking.

Chairperson Benbow said yes we can attempt to do that said one side of the street is restricted. Anybody else not associated with the businesses or anything else may attempt to park there also.

Commissioner Turner said that there are no other persons parking there except the petitioners. It's the 4-hour sign that stops bus users from parking there.

Commissioner Eldridge said right now there is no solution that has been presented.

Lt. Fried said there is a City parking lot at 11th Avenue in which they could carpool there and drive over to 2nd Avenue. The police have control over that lot.

Ms. Monroe said carpooling would not work as some people take the bus at different times.

Chairperson Benbow said perhaps we can find a solution and return next month.

Chairperson Benbow suggested City take a look at options and come up with something that can be accepted.

Commissioner Eldridge said even though it is vacant most of the times where the residents want to park but perhaps if they could discuss with the owner of the parking lot the possibility of renting the space for a small amount of money, perhaps that would work.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to return next month with a solution from both the staff and the Commissioners to work together and come up with a method of solving the problem.

Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

Lt. Fried stated he will collaborate with Public Works on this issue.

b. Report on Space Shuttle Endeavour Move.

Public Services Superintendent Harry Frisby, Jr. reported on the Space Shuttle Endeavour move, which went very well for the City of Inglewood. The Police Department did an awesome job. The Parks, Recreation and Library Services Director, Sabrina Barnes, also did a superb job at the Forum event.

c. Report on Ash Avenue Closure at Olive Street/I-405 off-ramp/Manchester Boulevard.

Mr. Lockard gave a brief update on the status of the temporary Ash Avenue closure that was initiated on October 17th.

Lt. Fried said the area has been an issue for a long time. The I-405 freeway is the busiest in North America. Caltrans has not kept up with the infrastructure. It is a burden for the Police Department. It has created problems with residents near there. The benefit City is getting from shutting it off fairly is fairly significant. It seems to be working. If we get complaints from Olive Street, the Police Department would deal with that. They are not driving faster just more motorists. Residents will not be happy for a while.

Commissioner Eldridge asked why the temporary closure was ended.

Mr. Atwell said he had received complaints because there was no notification, so he ended the closure on October 23rd.

Commissioner Eldridge said Commissioners Coronado had suggested earlier that the citizens have an opportunity to voice their opinion through a public hearing.

Commissioner Gonzalez said she agrees there should have been communications with the residents.

Commissioner Turner said he thought we voted on notifying the residents before anything took place. So how could barricades go up before notifying residents?

Mr. Atwell said the shuttle probably took priority over notification and interrupted action that was to be taken.

Assistant City Manager David L. Esparza said that the City was closing down the street because of the shuttle move. Mr. Esparza said he did not want the residents to think that the City was using that as some kind of ruse to make a permanent block to that street without giving them an opportunity for a public hearing.

Mr. Esparza said he and Mr. Atwell decided to remove the barricades so that the community would know we are not using the shuttle move as a basis to close off the street. Mr. Atwell said the residents should have been notified. That was the reason the barricades were taken down.

Commissioner Coronado said staff must communicate with the residents.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to set a public hearing to allow residents a chance to offer comments on a decision on what they prefer.

Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Motion was passed by a 5-0 vote.

d. La Brea Avenue at Market Street and Spruce Avenue CIP Project.

Mr. Lockard presented the staff report and discussed the alternative improvement concept plans.

Commissioner Gonzalez said this item was before the Commission last year.

Commissioner Eldridge asked which concept is the least costly. What will it do for City's businesses?

Mr. Atwell stated Concept 3 appears to be the best choice.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve resolution 12-03 as presented with endorsement of Concept 3.

Chairperson Benbow seconded the motion.

Motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

e. Report on 2012-2013 CIP Street and Transportation Projects

Mr. Lockard reported to Commissioners that on September 25, 2012, the City Council approved the City 2012-2013 operating and capital (CIP) budgets. He advised that the CIP budget included 23 street and transportation projects, and provided the Commission with a listing of projects.

Chairperson Benbow asked about a project discussed at a previous meeting.

Mr. Lockard said the Crenshaw and 84th project plans are nearly complete.

Mr. Benbow asked if the lady that came to the Commission meeting regarding the Crenshaw and 84th Street project had seen the City's recommendation.

Mr. Lockard said he would prefer staff to follow up with her, rather than have her returning to a Commission meeting.

V. Public Hearings: None.

VI. Police Department: Informational Report on Police Traffic Division Activities.

Lt. Fried said the space shuttle Endeavor move went well for them. The shuttle moved involved a great deal of Police Department effort.

VII. Commissioner Initiatives:

a. Fairview Boulevard at La Tijera Boulevard.

Commissioner Gonzalez passed out a photo of this intersection. She described this area and said between 7:45-8:00 no school crossing guards are on the corner of Fairview and La Tijera where there are student crossings.

Commissioner Gonzalez is concerned about no one being there to assist the children crossing the street. Police presence would be great. Need a better lighted crosswalk. Commissioner Gonzalez said her main concern is to have children cross safely and requested guards be placed there.

Commissioner Gonzalez made a motion to recommend that guards be placed at that location as soon as possible.

Commissioner Eldridge seconded the motion.

Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Eldridge asked Mr. Lockard about Prairie Avenue and 112th Street and the status of speed bumps.

Mr. Lockard said funding is now available through one of the new capital projects.

Commissioner Eldridge said in front of his house the sidewalk is going straight upward and there are no trees there. He said it very dangerous for children.

Mr. Atwell said department staff will look into this right away.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m

