

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007 - - - 4:05 P.M.
City Council Chamber ----- City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Leslie Mahaffey
 Rosa Nowels
 Stephen Hall, Vice Chairman
 Edmundo Duvignau
 Johnnie Simmons

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: J. Michael Cochran, Chairman
 Rob Hallstrom

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer
 Lt. Kevin Hamilton, Fullerton Police Department
 Sgt. Steve Williams, Fullerton Police Department
 Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst
 Teri Carlson, Engineering Aide III
 Stacy Matsumoto, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Hall called the Transportation & Circulation Commission meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioner Nowels made a motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2007. Commissioner Duvignau seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING – 2123 W. WEST AVENUE

City Traffic Engineer Miller presented staff's recommendation to deny the request for disabled person's parking at 2123 W. West Avenue. Staff denied the request due to sufficient on-street parking in addition to the available off street parking to the rear of the property in the alley. The property is not ADA compliant and does not have a ramp leading up into the home.

Commissioner Nowels asked if there had been repairs to the sidewalk.

Mr. Miller believed there have been various sidewalk repairs throughout the City.

Commissioner Hall asked if the property owner needed a ramp at the front of the home to be ADA compliant.

Mr. Miller stated that would be staff's opinion based on what is known at this time.

Commissioner Mahaffey asked if a ramp would be required for the warrant.

Mr. Miller stated that there isn't a warrant but if staff were to install blue curb there would have to be evidence that it was needed. Mr. Miller stated that if the homeowner was willing to install an access ramp or make similar improvements, staff would be more apt to recommend the approval.

Commissioner Nowels stated that the area seemed to be sparsely parked and asked if that is what staff observed.

Mr. Miller stated that staff made 2 to 3 visits during regular working hours and that was what was observed. Staff did not investigate parking utilization in the evening.

Commissioner Duvignau stated that there was another item similar to this one but they did not have ADA access to the sidewalk but they were going to put brick in the parkway.

Mr. Miller stated that staff was referring to the steps leading up to the home and not sidewalk access. This property has access to the curb but not to the home. The other property that Commissioner Duvignau is referring to did have access to the home but needed access from the curb.

Public comment was opened.

Mae Tagg, 2123 W. West Avenue stated that at night the street is like a parking lot. Almost every spot has a car parked and there are times when no parking is available in front of their home. One neighbor will send their guests to move their car so they can park in front of their house. At times they have to park at the end of the block. Neither of them is in a wheelchair. Mr. Tagg has problems with his legs as a result of diabetes and Mrs. Tagg has an artificial leg and finds it very uncomfortable to walk almost half a block to their house in the dark with inadequate street lighting. Parking in the alley requires that they walk further to their back door than from the street to their front door so they have always parked at the front of their home.

Commissioner Nowels asked how far the walk was from the garage to the house.

Mrs. Tagg stated that they do not park in the garage because their garage is full just like every other home in the neighborhood and was too small to park their vehicles in. It has been suggested to them that they could post a disabled parking sign off of the alley within a segment of private property that belongs to them. They would have to install outdoor lighting at the back of the house that would activate as they drove up in order to have sufficient lighting to address safety concerns. Mrs. Tagg stated that the multi-family housing on the opposite side of the alley results in multiple cars parking in the alley at night.

Commissioner Nowels stated that the neighbor has a paved area between the garage and the house and the Tagg's do not.

Mrs. Tagg stated that they have a double gate and if they use that area to park, they would have to install a concrete slab.

Commissioner Nowels asked if the Tagg's were considering installing concrete.

Mrs. Tagg stated that they had not considered that.

Commissioner Hall asked if the Tagg's had a handicap placard for their car.

Mrs. Tagg stated that they have handicap license plates.

Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst stated that the alley is 20 feet wide; 10 feet from the center of the cross gutter to the edge of the asphalt. From that point there is approximately 8 to 10 feet of dirt. Mr. Langstaff believes that some of the neighbors are parking up against the property owner's gate. Staff suggested posting a sign within the "private" section of the alley stating "Private Property-Resident Parking Only" and those vehicles ignoring the posting could be subject to tow.

Lt. Hamilton stated that if it is private property, or if others block their gate, the Police Department can enforce it the posting and tow said vehicle.

Commissioner Nowels asked if this street was exempt from overnight parking.

Mr. Miller replied that this street is exempt from overnight parking. Staff replied that overnight parking was allowed on both West and within the alley.

Commissioner Hall asked if the overflow was from the homes in the area or if there were apartment complexes near by.

Mrs. Tagg stated that there was multiple housing. There are people living in garages and that someone left a car inoperable in the alley.

Commissioner Hall stated that Code Enforcement could address the abandoned vehicle.

Commissioner Nowels stated that if blue curb was approved any disabled person could park there.

Commissioner Duvignau asked Mr. Miller if cars were parked on the dirt would that allow enough right of way in the alley for cars to get through.

Mr. Miller stated that parking is allowed in the alley. Staff's suggestion was for them to use their property to park and post their property for "No Parking-Private Property" at the expense of the property owner.

Public comment was closed.

Mr. Miller stated that installing blue curb would be at the City's expense. Staff was indifferent on this issue but sided on denying the request; leaving the request to the discretion of the Commission following public comment. Staff will take forward whatever the Commission recommends.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the installation of an access ramp would make it ADA compliant.

Mr. Miller stated that he had not spoken to the property owners but would not make it a condition for approval after hearing additional information regarding their condition.

Commissioner Duvignau stated that he sympathizes with the property owner's situation, there is a definite need for parking on their block and in their neighborhood, and has seen cars parked half on lawns and half on sidewalks. The Tagg's have a garage that could be used for parking whether or not they use it and because of the need for parking in the front of their street he would not be in support of the request.

Commissioner Mahaffey asked the differences between the approval of blue curb on Stanford and this item because both properties were on the alley.

Mr. Langstaff stated that staff worked with the property owner on Stanford two years ago. At that time, any one who had a handicap placard was able to park overnight without restrictions. Since then the rules have changed so he property owner came back and reapplied for the blue curb. Improvements to the home included; putting in a ramp, widening the sidewalk, and installing a landing for van access, in an effort to a disabled person's parking space.

Commissioner Mahaffey stated that the property on Stanford has a two car garage with parking in the alley with no overnight parking on Stanford.

Mr. Langstaff stated that their service vehicle was too large to park in the alley any where in close proximity of the home legally without blocking the alley and the garage was too small to park the vehicle. They utilized the vehicle from the front of the home since they cannot access at the back of the property due to the wife's medical condition.

Commissioner Nowels stated that she understands staff's reasons. Not knowing the financial condition of the property owner on whether they can make improvements even though their disabilities don't require a ramp, she disagreed with staff's recommendation

Commissioner Hall motioned to disagree with staff's recommendation and send it back for review and approval. Commissioner Nowels seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Duvignau voted no.

Mr. Miller stated that staff will take this forward to City Council in November.

Commissioner Hall advised the residents to attend the City Council meeting. The commission disagreed with staff's recommendation which is in the resident's favor.

2. NO PARKING – POMONA AVENUE

Mr. Miller presented staff's recommendations in response to a Fullerton High School request that staff review the existing parking restrictions on Pomona north of Chapman. As a result of construction on Lemon and within the high school grounds, staff provided an area for students to be picked up and dropped off with restrictions and for buses to load and unload students. Work has been completed on Lemon and the buses load

and unload students in the parking lot off of Lemon; therefore, there is no longer a need for the bus loading of students on Pomona Avenue. This request is to increase the student loading/drop off area by removing the bus loading and unloading north of Chapman. The special ed. buses will continue to drop off on Pomona within the red zone and will not be affected by this recommendation. Street sweeping is enforced on both sides of Pomona.

McDonalds will be relocating to the northwest corner which should relieve some of the congestion when the west side of the street is posted for "No Stopping Anytime" in the future.

Commissioner Simmons stated that there are times when buses bring students from other schools for the performances at the Plummer and wanted to know if they will be allowed some flexibility.

Mr. Miller asked if the buses utilize the drop off and pick up area on Lemon.

Commissioner Simmons stated that the buses would stop on Pomona and line up and wait.

Mr. Langstaff stated that there are two kinds of events, the ones that were just mentioned and special events that would require all day parking. Special events often require that the City post the street for no parking-bus loading/unloading.

Public comment was opened and closed.

Commissioner Nowels motioned to approved staff's recommendation. Commissioner Mahaffey seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Simmons was not present.

The Transportation and Circulation Commission adjourned. Reconvened as the Board of Parking Place Commission.

BOARD OF PARKING PLACE COMMISSION

1. PARKING DISTRICT NO. 1 – NO PARKING COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LOADING/UNLOADING

Mr. Miller presented the request of Sergeant Fred Cases regarding loading and unloading of goods to the restaurants in this parking lot. There isn't a convenient loading and unloading zone. The beer trucks have been pulling adjacent to 113, the Ross Publications and using an area that is signed for no parking any time and double parking, blocking the drive isle. The drive isle from the side of the building which is within the alley to the curb is 29 feet.

Police department asked for staff to clearly mark the loading and unloading zone adjacent to the building making a loading zone that is illegal so the PCO's can cite trucks double parked if they are outside of the loading area. All the other places on the street are all being used up. Staff stated that if we allow 8 feet for loading and unloading, this will leave 21 feet of drive isle and enough room for two-way traffic in a parking lot, allowing trucks to park in a loading and unloading zone. . Staff felt that the

loading zone should not be the total length of the building to allow some maneuvers at the south isle. This lot use to be a two way lot down the isles where the parking spaces are but because of issues with cruising and people milling around, the police requested it to be a one way circulation. You enter the lot going north from Amerige and you circulate to the left one way going out. One way in and one way out and staff wanted to provide some red area for the trucks to maneuver back and forth. According to the City Ordinance, the loading and unloading zones are from 6:00 am. to 6:00 p.m. After 6 p.m. it is a no parking zone. The sign will say no parking commercial loading/unloading zone from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hall asked if the proposed “no stopping” section in the front would need to continue to the face of the building or does it already exist and does Ross occupy the whole building or is there a second tenant, and where both tenants okay with this.

Mr. Miller stated that it would be to the face of the building. Mr. Miller stated that both tenants were notified and staff did not receive any opposition.

Commissioner Mahaffey’s concern was that the alley is narrow and if a truck is parked, would there be a blind spot.

Mr. Miller stated the alley is one way off of Wilshire. There is a driveway and on the north end of the building there is a parking space like a breeze carport area so this area to the south of the carport has 10 -15 feet of the carport, then 20 feet of the alley will allow plenty of sight distance.

Public comment was opened and closed.

Commissioner Nowels motioned to approve the installation of no parking commercial loading and unloading zone. Commissioner Duvignau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Simmons was not present.

Council

The 20 minute loading was increased on Wilshire in front of McCoy Mills was approved, 1 hour on Woods was approved for the parking restrictions, the 4-way stop on Wilshire has been installed along with a couple stop signs with barricades to emphasize it. The no stopping any time signs are installed at Ranch Road off of State College on the corner. Disabled space was approved for Stanford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments will be allowed on matters not appearing on the agenda but within the Commission's jurisdiction.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation and Circulation Commission adjourned at 4:42 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of November 5, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.