

BURLINGTON PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
645 Pine Street
Minutes – June 20, 2012
DVD of this meeting on file at DPW

Commissioners present: Robert Alberry, Margaret Gundersen, Nathan Lavery, Solveig Overby, Mark Porter and Jared Wood

Commissioner absent: Marc Sherman

Commissioner Alberry called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Item 1: AGENDA: Commissioner Lavery moved to: advance Item 10 (Parking in Residential Neighborhoods) to Item 3.4; advance Item 11 (Pedestrian Crosswalk Signal Timing) to Item 3.5; and strike Item 4 (Performance Report) in order to postpone it until the July meeting (several new commissioners). No discussion. Unanimous approval.

Item 2: PUBLIC FORUM – No one presenting.

Item 3: REQUEST TO CHANGE NEXT MONTH’S – AND ALL FUTURE MEETING DATES – TO THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (Steven Goodkind, Director)

Mayor Weinberger wants to attend the July meeting but can’t make it as scheduled on the 18th. Commissioner Lavery noted that two of the new commissioners are available on July 11th (the 2nd Wednesday of the month), but a challenge for another new commissioner. July 18th presents the same situation. Commissioner Porter noted that moving the meeting(s) to the 2nd Wednesday conflicts with NPA meetings. **Commissioner Lavery moved to reschedule the July meeting from July 18th to July 11th.** Commissioner Gundersen made a friendly amendment to allow the new Commission to determine future Commission meeting dates. Commissioner Porter seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 3.4 (originally Item 10): PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS
(Steven Goodkind, Director)

See Commission Packet: June 11, 2012 Memorandum from Director Goodkind and City Council Resolution.

The City Council’s Resolution entitled, “Improving Parking Management in Neighborhoods,” requests that the Commission consider remedies for parking challenges named in the Resolution and report back to the City Council no later than July 16th. John King, manager of the Parking Enforcement program, was present to answer questions about residential parking passes.

Director Goodkind:

- DPW will work with the police, parking enforcement staff and residents of Hungerford Terrace to produce possible solutions, with hopes to consider applying the same techniques to other streets with similar challenges. He noted that parking spaces would be lost if parking space lines are painted on the street, since vehicles differ in size. The increase in “residents only” parking on Hungerford is attributed to formerly single-family homes being converted into apartments,

housing several-family units (all of whom are entitled to a resident parking pass). While the conversion to apartments was approved by Zoning, the challenges of parking for the additional residents were not considered.

- DPW is in queue for the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO/MPO) to study residential parking. The MPO would do the legwork for DPW and work with them to come up with recommendations. If the CCMPO funding is available, their study would begin this year. The requests made by the City Council Resolution could be addressed within the MPO's study.
- Will contact the MPO to find out the status of funding and report back to the Commission.
- Met with Hungerford Terrace residents today on street congestion/parking. Residents suggested that DPW/Parking Enforcement consider the following: 1) Issue residential parking passes only to those with vehicles registered in VT; 2) Limit the number of parking passes to fit each property/frontage; and 3) Have a fee schedule which might discourage residents from asking for more passes.

Commissioner Lavery: It is not realistic for the Commission to make recommendations to the City Council on this point. This issue is best dealt with on a more comprehensive, policy level, not on a case-by-case level.

Commissioner Porter: Wants to ensure that a comprehensive plan (for parking City-wide) will be in place to handle future parking requests, with future parking requests coming before the Commission if they are considered exceptions to the overall plan. He wants to ensure that the MPO will not come to DPW with a final recommendation but will work *with* DPW and bring recommendations to the Commission for approval.

Assistant Director Norman Baldwin: The CCMPO merged with Regional Planning and acts as a resource within Chittenden County and provides support to different member communities (e.g., *Complete Streets*). This engineering planning function is provided at no cost to DPW, is a tremendous resource, and provides a valuable third-party perspective.

Commissioner Porter moved to have Commissioner Lavery respond to the City Council in writing concerning the Resolution, saying that the Commission will not be able to respond back by July 16th as requested. Commissioner Gundersen seconded. Commissioner Lavery further clarified that the letter he has been asked to write to the City Council would cover: 1) Acknowledgment of receipt of the Council's Resolution; 2) Informing the Council that what they are asking will be addressed as a part of a larger study; and 3) Informing the Council that the Commission will give occasional updates on the progress of the study.

Mr. King, Parking Enforcement manager: Explained the process of the distribution of neighborhood residential and guest parking passes.

Item 3.5 (originally Item 11): PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNAL TIMING (Steven Goodkind, Director)

Update: Approximately 26 signals needed some kind of work on the timing to bring all signals up to MUTCD standards. About one-third have been corrected and the remaining signals will be completed in the next one-two months. He stressed that this is just the first phase in addressing some of the more challenging intersections. Director Goodkind will report back to the Commission next month on the progress.

Item 5: AUSTIN DRIVE RESIDENT PARKING REQUEST

(Joel Fleming, Public Works Engineer)

See Commission Packet: June 20, 2012 Memorandum from Joel Fleming and attachments.

The Austin Drive neighborhood (including South Cove Road and Dunder Road) has been working with DPW for a couple of years on improving parking and safety issues caused during the summer months by the neighborhood's proximity to Oakledge Park. Improvements have included lowering the speed limit and adding a crosswalk. Most recently, the neighborhood is requesting "Resident Only" parking from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from May 1st to October 1st. The section that would be affected: Austin Drive west of the Redrocks Apartments driveway to the western intersection of South Cove Road and Austin Drive; all of Dunder Road; and 200 yards south of Austin Drive on both entrances of South Cove Road.

Commissioner Gundersen: Referenced a letter from former Commission member John Ackerson, Austin Drive resident, voicing his opposition to the proposed "Resident Only" parking restriction. Copies of the letter were distributed at this meeting.

Michael Hennessey, resident and former past president of the homeowners' association at South Cove: At recent neighborhood association, only 2 or 3 people (Mr. Ackerson included) were opposed to the "Resident Only" parking restriction. Mr. Hennessey supports the request.

Jabez Boyd, Dunder Road resident, president of the South Cove Association. Despite efforts from DPW, The Burlington Police Department (BPD) and Parks and Recreation (P&R), this - and last - summer are noticeably worse than when the Association first approached DPW. Corrections to the document: 1) The Association is requesting the parking restriction on weeknights only; and 2) They have been working with DPW, BPD and Parks and Rec since May 2010 (not September 2012).

Assistant Director Norman Baldwin: Encouraged the Commission to determine before making a decision, on whether the changes already made are ineffectual or just not enforced. The Commission's questions around enforcement need to be addressed to the BPD.

Patty McShane, Dunder Road resident, secretary for the South Cove Association: In the past three summers, congestion in the Austin Drive neighborhood has worsened. The "Resident Only" parking granted to the condos on the other side of Oakledge Park has created displacement, shifting vehicles to the Austin Drive neighborhood.

Commissioner Gundersen: This Item should be tabled until a City-wide parking plan is in place. Strongly opposes what she feels are high parking rates in the parks' parking lots.

Commissioner Lavery: Would not support "Resident Only" parking at this time. There are already ordinances in place where enforcement could be improved, and the Commission is continuing to work toward an overall parking plan. Wants to avoid shifting the congestion to other areas by designating more areas "Resident Only."

Commissioner Porter: Would like to put a deadline on the Commission so that if the CCMPO is not able to work with DPW this year, the Commission would move forward in creating a City-wide parking plan.

Commissioner Overby: Does not support "Resident Only" parking and encourages better enforcement of the ordinances. Suggests asking P & R to have their staff get involved possibly by monitoring the South Cove neighborhood from 4 – 9 p.m.

Commissioner Wood moved to table Item 5 pending additional information; Commissioner Lavery seconded. Unanimous approval.

Assistant Director Baldwin: Recommended that staff gather information to ensure there is compliance and enforcement for the institutional methods already in place, and then report back to the Commission. Commissioner Gundersen asked Assistant Director Baldwin to forward copies of the plan DPW has submitted to the CCMPO prior to the July meeting.

Commissioner Gundersen announced the tendering of her resignation from the Commission. She still has ongoing issues as a result from the concussion she suffered in February. Her car was hit by an uninsured motorist while she was stopped at a Stop sign on Route 7 in South Burlington. She left the meeting at this point to spend time with her daughter, who is visiting from out of state.

Item 6: ADD HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE PARKING AT 11 FLETCHER PLACE
(Joel Fleming, Public Works Engineer)

See Commission Packet: June 20, 2012 Memorandum from Joel Fleming.

Staff received a request from a Fletcher Place resident requesting one (not two, as Mr. Fleming's Memorandum states) handicap-accessible parking space in front of 11 Fletcher Place. Three of the four residents who responded with feedback to DPW staff supported the request. Mr. Fleming asked the resident to let him know if she moves. **Commissioner Alberry recommended** that the Commission accept staff's recommendation to add a handicap-accessible parking space in front of 11 Fletcher Place. **Commissioner Porter moved** to accept; Commissioner Lavery seconded. Commissioners Alberry, Lavery, Overby and Porter voted in favor; Commissioner Wood opposed due to the possible development in the area.

Item 7: ADD TWO, 2-HOUR PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF INDIA HOUSE – EAST AVE.
(Joel Fleming, Public Works Engineer)

See Commission Packet: June 1, 2012 Memorandum from Joel Fleming.

The two, two-hour parking spaces in front of the India House restaurant are not supported by a traffic regulation that authorizes their posting and enforcement. Staff recommends that the two spaces remain as two-hour parking spaces. **Commissioner Lavery moved** to accept staff's recommendation to designate the two spaces as two-hour parking; Commissioner Wood seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 8: MAIN STREET ELECTRIC CAR SPACE
(Joel Fleming, Public Works Engineer)

See Commission Packet: June 20, 2012 Memorandum from Joel Fleming

Staff is recommending that the first space east of Church Street on the south side of Main Street (already a car recharging station) is restricted for "Electric Car Use Only" and remain as a metered space. **Commissioner Lavery moved** to accept staff's recommendation to designate the space as "Electric Car Use Only." Commissioner Wood seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Porter will not support it because he feels it does not benefit a large enough population and contributes to the increasingly limited downtown metered parking.

Commissioner Lavery asked Director Goodkind to approach the Burlington Electric Department (BED) and ask if they can monitor the space's usage.

Commissioner Overby wholeheartedly supports staff's recommendation and the message it sends in dedicating the space to electric car users. Commissioners Alberry, Lavery, Overby and Wood voted in favor of the motion; Commissioner Porter was opposed.

Item 9: EPA COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP – JUNE

(Nicole Losch, Transportation Planner/Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager/Environmental Planner)

See Commission Packet: June 12, 2012 Memorandum from Nicole Losch

Will be finalizing some draft recommended actions and making a brief report, ready for review in early July. One recommendation: "City Council should pursue adoption of a resolution empowering the Public Works Commission to oversee complete streets implementation." Councilor Maxwell Tracy will lead the effort with a representative from the DPW Commission and Councilor Rachel Siegel. The Commission is being asked to identify a representative to work with the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee (TEUC) to develop the resolution.

Commissioner Porter: Wait until the July Commission meeting to choose a representative.

Item 10: See Item 3.4 – PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Item 11: See Item 3.5 – PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNAL TIMING

Item 12: MINUTES OF 5/16/12

Commissioner Overby asked Ms. Plumley to make changes/corrections to the last page under Commissioner Overby's communication, 2nd bullet: "...Briefly, it recounts the history of redevelopment in the primarily Italian neighborhood ~~and talks about "augmented reality."~~ **that was demolished in the 1960's to make room for the Burlington Square Mall, and Battery Street redevelopment. Also demonstrated was a project by Coby Brownell to develop a 3-D Smartphone app using "augmented reality" to show what the neighborhood looked like before it was lost."**

Commissioner Wood moved to accept the May 16, 2012 Minutes as amended; Commissioner Lavery seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 13: CHAIR'S REPORT (Commissioner Robert Alberry) No report.

Item 14: DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Steven Goodkind, Director)

Director Goodkind:

- Expressed gratitude to the departing commissioners, especially Commissioner Alberry. Assistant Director presented the commissioner with a plaque.
- Doesn't anticipate any reduction in DPW programs;

- Rate increases of 5% for water/wastewater;
- Next year will continue to analyze and present DPW's performance for the public.

Item 15: COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wood: Words of wisdom: "What if," and "And then what?" Encourages the Commission to continue to follow up on recommendations that have been made (e.g., a pothole called in by a resident).

Commissioner Overby: Asked if a policy exists to aid tour bus operators on where they may park their bus while he/she took a break. Assistant Director will look into it and get back to the Commission.

Commissioner Porter: Asked Ms. Losch for the status on traffic calming on North Street between Prospect Street and Mansfield Avenue. Ms. Losch: Waiting to hear about meeting with the neighbors, hopefully by the second week of July.

Commissioner Lavery: Pursuing having the City Attorney and the Mayor attend a Commission meeting to talk with the commissioners about what their duties and responsibilities are. Also reiterated the request to Assistant Director Baldwin to find out when the CCMPO expects to find out about the possibility of using some of this year's funds to work with DPW, and the CCMPO's anticipated time line.

Item 16: COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports.

Item 17: POLICY UPDATE: No policy updates.

Item 18: ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.; Commissioner Porter seconded. Unanimous approval.