

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 8, 2013

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Public Works Department.

Members Present: Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Bob Thompson, Mr. Charles Moore, and Mr. Dave Schwartz.

Members Absent: Mr. Adam Lawler, Mr. Warren Daniels, and Mr. Rick Smiley

Staff Present: Mr. Chris Padgett, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Kevin Mulligan, Public Works Director; Mr. Rik DiCesare, Traffic Engineer; Ms. Stacey Pigford, Assistant Traffic Engineer; Mr. Kenneth Jackson, Operations Manager; and Mr. Stephen Mancuso, Transit Manager.

Council Liaison: Mr. Calvin Mercer

WELCOME: Ms. Marsha Wyly called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and established that a quorum was present.

AGENDA: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

MINUTES: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the April Minutes. There were none. Mr. Bob Thompson moved approval as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Moore and unanimously approved. Ms. Wyly then noted that she would skip the next agenda item (Greenville Transportation Center Update) given that Mr. Chris Padgett had not yet arrived.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there was any new business. There was none.

OLD BUSINESS:

UNRI: Mr. Kevin Mulligan began by noting that a public meeting was held on April 29, 2013, and that the comments received provided useful information. He clarified that what is before the Commission is the issue regarding parking on the streets (and not in the backyards). Mr. Mulligan stated that the UNRI proposal is to allow resident only parking in both the green and purple shaded areas on the attached map. However, he also noted that Public Works had modified this proposal allowing unrestricted parking in certain identified areas so as to continue allowing non-residents access to the Greenway.

Mr. Kevin Mulligan summarized some of the questions and comments that were received at the public meeting. He noted that a parking sticker would be required from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and that the maximum number of permits per house is dictated by the maximum numbers of residents per house. He also noted that guest permits can be obtained at the Public Works Department, and he reiterated that there would be no parking restrictions around the City's Parks or the Greenway. Mr. Kevin Mulligan also mentioned that staff was not aware of any cars parking in the turn-around areas of the streets that are reserved for emergency vehicle use. Last, he noted that the intent of the proposal was to reserve the street for the parking of resident cars so residents would not have to park in their backyards.

Mr. Kevin Mulligan then summarized the proposal that is before the Commission, which is to allow residential parking only in both the green area and the purple area by separate permits between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excepting the identified on-street parking in the purple area that provides access to the City's Parks and Greenway. He noted that one option would be to make the restriction voluntary via the current petition process.

Ms. Marsha Wyly asked about Stancill Drive and if the two properties at the end of the street blocked access to the Greenway. Mr. Rik DiCesare responded that they did not block any access and that there was actually a paved walking path leading to the Greenway.

Ms. Marsha Wyly noted that one person at the public meeting wanted to implement the mandatory restrictions in the green area first and in the purple area at a later date. Ms. Wyly expressed her concern that this would just clog the purple area with non-resident parkers. Others present agreed. There was also a general conversation regarding the fact that East Carolina University has enough parking for the student body, but that many of the students just don't want to park in these designated areas.

A general discussion about voluntary versus mandated restrictions ensued. It was noted that if the Commission wanted to give the residents in the area a "vote" on the matter, they could simply recommend leaving the current petition process in place.

Mr. Bob Thompson moved to recommend the proposal summarized by Mr. Kevin Mulligan. This motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Moore but failed one (1) vote to (3) votes.

Mr. Charles Moore then moved to recommend that the green be left as is and that the purple area be designated voluntary via the petition process. This motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Thompson, but also failed one (1) vote to (3) votes.

There was then a brief discussion about voting. Mr. Stephen Mancuso clarified that all Members of the Commission, including the Chair, have equal voting rights.

Mr. Dave Schwartz noted that he just wanted to be sure the proposed plan did not favor the investors and landlords at the expense of the residents. There was a general discussion that this was not the case. Mr. Bob Thompson noted that anything less than mandatory will simply be too confusing, which is why he made his original motion. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Charles Moore then moved to recommend the proposal summarized by Mr. Kevin Mulligan. This motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Thompson and passed four (4) to zero (0).

GREENVILLE TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY CENTER: Mr. Chris Padgett gave a brief update on the Greenville Transportation Activity Center (GTAC). He stated that the consultants and staff continue to work on the data for three (3) facility size options and that he intended to bring the matter back before both steering committees in June. Commission Members noted their next meeting is in June and that they don't meet in July. Mr. Padgett then indicated he would schedule their review for June as well.

Mr. Chris Padgett also noted that he attended a neighborhood association meeting and that the information he presented about GTAC was well received by those in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

LETTER TO CITY MANAGER: Ms. Marsha Wyly noted she sent the attached letter to the City Manager as previously authorized by the Commission but not until just the other day as she was busy with other matters. Mr. Bob Thompson commended her for a job well done. Mr. Charles Moore did as well.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Mr. Stephen Mancuso gave a brief report on GREAT. He stated the ridership for the month of April 2013 was higher than in April 2012. He stated that expenses and revenues through April continued to track favorably and that GREAT would be finishing the fiscal year in a positive position compared to budget.

Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if it was known how many senior citizens ride the GREAT buses. Mr. Stephen Mancuso explained that staff could provide an estimate based upon the number of ½ fares paid at the time of boarding and that a better estimate should be forthcoming as soon as the short-range transit plan on-board survey results are published. The latter prompted a question about the development of the short-range transit plan. Mr. Mancuso stated that the project is underway and that the Steering Committee met for the first time in April and would be meeting again on May 20, 2013. He invited Mr. Dave Schwartz, who is on the Steering Committee, to share his thoughts. Mr. Schwartz noted he was impressed with the size of the Committee and the varied interests that are represented.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:14 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. in Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission