

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
July 17, 2012
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Charlie Zusag, Lt. Hargrove, Rich Lapointe, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins

Absent: Dave Gula

Guests: David Athey, Councilmember
Judy David, 25 N. Chapel Street
Ruth Crossan, 38 Sunset Road
Marge Hadden, 45 Sunset Road
Mary J. Kaled, 52 Sunset Road
Robert Newlin, 45 Sunset Road
Amy Roe, 19 Sunset Road
Amy Smith, 20 Sunset Road
David Smith, 20 Sunset Road
Graham Smith, 20 Sunset Road

Chief Tiernan called for a motion to move agenda item #3 to be the first item discussed due to the many residents attending from Sunset Road.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY CHARLIE ZUSAG, TO MOVE ITEM #3 TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

- 1. REQUEST TO DESIGNATE THE NORTH SIDE OF SUNSET ROAD BETWEEN SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE AND ORCHARD ROAD AS "NO PARKING ANYTIME", "SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT".**

One resident said she has noticed on several occasions, cars are being parked in front of the fire hydrant. She also said she lives alone and there is a lot of noise during the evening hours.

Chief Tiernan said for the record, 100% of the homeowners have signed a petition.

Another resident said his main concern from a security standpoint is not knowing who is parked in front of his house and if they are paying attention to his habits.

Another resident said her concern is that cars will be parked a couple of feet in front of the driveway at times and that is just enough to be blocked in.

Another resident said she feels this is a recent issue that has not always existed. She believes the problem arose about the time when parking hours were extended and parking meter rates were increased. She has taken notice that no one is parking on S. College Avenue and as a result, there has been an increase in parking on Sunset Road. She said recently her sister was visiting that has a small child and felt horrible because there was nowhere for her to park and she had to walk a distance to get to her house. She said she has also been blocked in.

Another resident is uncomfortable with people getting in their cars late at night and not leaving right away and feels uneasy not knowing what they are doing. She is also concerned regarding the crime that occurred back in the spring where cars would be parked on one street and crime was being committed elsewhere.

Another resident said she believes this is the result of the University of Delaware rezoning their parking areas and more specifically removing parking around the library and does not feel it is fair to put this responsibility on the city. She feels the University of Delaware needs to take responsibility by providing more options for their students to safely get to and from the library.

Another resident said she has noticed the same cars parking more frequently on Sunset Road. She feels that once they realize they can park legally on Sunset Road it occurs more frequently and a pattern begins to develop.

A resident said the police have been very responsive.

Chief Tiernan informed the residents that the Traffic Committee would send a recommendation for council's approval and the recommendation would receive two readings.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY TOM PARKINS, TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE NORTH SIDE OF SUNSET ROAD BETWEEN SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE AND ORCHARD ROAD AS "NO PARKING ANYTIME", "SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT"

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

2. REQUEST FOR NO PARKING ON CHAPEL STREET IN FRONT OF CHAPEL STREET PLAYHOUSE.

Judy David said she is on the board of Chapel Street Playhouse and she also lives at 25 N. Chapel Street. Ms. David said she is requesting for no parking in front of the theater. Ms. David said one of the patrons fell and broke their wrist and due to parking in front of the theater it was difficult for the ambulance to attend to the patient. Ms. David said approximately 20 years ago when there was a show the theater would post no parking signs. However, when road improvements were completed on N. Chapel Street the sign posts were removed and has been an issue ever since.

Lt. Hargrove recommended designating this area as a loading zone which would allow for the loading and unloading of passengers while at the same time restricting parking.

Rich Lapointe said he did not have any trouble pulling out today. Lt. Hargrove said the driveways on either side of the building are narrow and makes it difficult to see traffic.

Chief Tiernan said this item would go before Council for two readings.

MOTION BY LT. HARGROVE, SECONDED BY TOM PARKINS, TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE AREA IN FRONT OF CHAPEL STREET PLAYHOUSE AS A LOADING ZONE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

3. DISCUSS "NO PARKING ANYTIME" ON NEW LONDON ROAD BETWEEN COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE AND HILLSIDE ROAD.

This item was tabled at a Traffic Committee meeting held on May 15, 2012.

Chief Tiernan said letters were hand-delivered to the residents on New London Road advising of the next Traffic Committee meeting if they had any objections. Lt. Hargrove said he has received no feedback from New London Road residents. Tom Parkins said he spoke to one resident that has lived there for forty years and was concerned where her family and friends would park if parking was eliminated.

Charlie Zusag said there may have been no comments or feedback due to the letter stating the Traffic Committee is considering restricting versus prohibiting no parking.

Lt. Hargrove said he has been unable to find either local or state law that prohibits parking in a bike lane.

Lt. Hargrove said he attends the Bicycle Committee meetings and there has been no discussion regarding prohibiting parking in the bike lane. Marvin Howard asked why Lt. Stanko requested this be reviewed by the committee. Rich Lapointe said it was just a shoulder until the state painted the bike lanes. Lt. Hargrove said the bike lane is fairly wide to accommodate both a car and bicyclist in the bike lane.

NO MOTION.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSS A LETTER RECEIVED FROM DELDOT REGARDING CROSSWALKS ON SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE AT WINSLOW ROAD.

Rich Lapointe said the request was received the University of Delaware. Rich Lapointe said the traffic is primarily generated by the University of Delaware and is of the opinion that they should cover the cost. Rich Lapointe recommended the committee send a letter to the University of Delaware stating we have no concerns with installing the crosswalks and request that they cover the cost.

Dave Athey said he is aware the formal request was received by the University of Delaware however he has heard from various constituents regarding the need for a crosswalk between E. Park Place and Kent Way. Dave Athey said approximately five years ago, the Delaware Department of Transportation denied a request stating they would not approve of a mid-block crosswalk.

Lt. Hargrove said he feels a crosswalk at Winslow Road is really a crosswalk to nowhere. He said there is a brick wall that extends past Kent Way. Lt. Hargrove asked if the reason for the request was due to heavy pedestrian traffic at Winslow Road.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY LT. HARGROVE, TO SEND A LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASKING THEY FUND THE INSTALLATION OF CROSSWALK(S) ON SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.


NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Tiernan said due to budget constraints, asked the committee for feedback if meetings were changed to a time during normal business hours. Chief Tiernan said in the past the committee used to meet at 3:30 p.m. and Councilmember Pomeroy was of the opinion that meeting at 5:00 p.m. would be more convenient for residents and at that time the City Manager approved. Charlie Zusag said if the meeting was changed back to within normal business hours, residents would still have the opportunity to attend evening Council meetings. Tom Parkins said a 3:30 meeting time would work best for his schedule.

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY MARVIN HOWARD, SECONDED BY LT. HARGROVE, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.



Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman