

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

July 11, 2023 at 5:15 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Barry, Long, Stewart, George-Kelly, Burkush

Messrs.: C. Goodnow, A. Aldenberg, O. Friend-Gray, Alderman Trisciani

1. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Morton Street, west side, from Irwin Drive to a point 240 feet north

Alderman Cavanaugh

On Oakhill Avenue, west side, from Tower Hill Road to a point 540 feet north

Alderman Stewart

STOP SIGN

On Hazel Street at Brook Street, southeast corner

Alderman Long

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Patterson Street, west side, from Sheridan Street to a point 190 feet north

(ORD10651)

Alderman Barry

NEW CROSSWALKS (CHRISTIAN BROOK SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT)

On North Street, east of Beech Street

On North Street, east of Ash Street

On Ash Street, north of North Street

On Ash Street, south of North Street

On Oak Street, north of North Street

On North Street, east of Hemlock Street

On Hemlock street, north of North Street

On Russell Street, north of North Street

On Carnegie Street, east of Hawthorne Street

On Hall Street, north of Webster Street

On Webster Street, west of Belmont Street

On Belmont Street, north of Webster Street

On Pickering Street, north of Webster Street

On Wagner Street, north of Webster Street

On Hall Street, south of North Street

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated there is an additional handout of traffic regulations regarding Bronstein Park.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I have sent a couple of emails about this asking about the possibility for exceptions for people that work in the area overnight or for residents. There are issues with businesses where people park there overnight, so dusk to dawn, not having parking there is detrimental to them and residents. Beech Street has resident parking from that part of Beech Street, but the rest of it does not. So, any residents that live in that area are struggling to figure out where to park overnight that is close enough

to their dwelling that they feel safe walking across the city if they are coming home at midnight.

Chairman Barry stated I don't know if we have any resident only parking signage.

Chris Goodnow, Parking Director, stated in collaboration with the Police Department we brainstormed different ideas we could present that you folks could adjust as you see fit. That area is Zone 8 resident parking in that area. With those locations you could do resident parking in those areas that we proposed in the handout, and two-hour parking, or adjust it in any way you see fit with any businesses in the area or things like that. It's a template that we can do residential parking in that area that's already in the books. We can change 2-hour on Hanover Street, we can do it on Union Street, whatever anybody sees fit with whatever your constituents are asking for. I know there are businesses in the area that probably need 10-hour parking during the day and stuff like that. We'd have to adjust to whatever you guys are getting for information; we're not sure. This is just a template or a direction to head in. That's all we're proposing right now.

Alderman Stewart stated I have a question on process. You're here tonight asking for us to approve this but it seems the changes have already been made. Do we need to approve this? Who has the authority to do this?

Mr. Goodnow stated it is my understanding, and I believe this came out of an encampment meeting how this all started. I came in at the very end of this. There was an emergency order if my understanding is correct, to post that park until there was a decision made by committee on what the best way is to handle this. At that point, there was kind of silence a little bit, and people were wondering what's going to be done. So, we collaborated and tried to put together some sort of thought process or plan to hand over to have you guys digest and see what you would like to see, what you're hearing, stuff like that. This is not in effect right now. This is simply a template proposal that you can move around in what you think should go where.

Allen Aldenberg, Chief of Police, stated we felt that it shouldn't be the Police Department, Alderman, deciding what parking measures are put in place. I think we'd leave that to the committee. We're strictly going to enforce whatever this committee approves or does not approve.

Alderman Stewart stated this is different than what is on the full agenda later tonight.

Chief Aldenberg stated item 33. This is the same thing that's going to be discussed tonight by the full Board.

Owen Friend-Gray, Deputy Public Works Director, the letter that is in front of you, Alderman Stewart, perhaps I can shed some light on that. That was something that DPW issued approximately one month ago; it is an emergency ordinance. When we issue those, typically the process is that they come up at the next meeting and then the Board decides whether to keep it or whether we should rescind it. In this case, an alternative to that is being developed, but to try not to have a gap in between, what we were going to ask for is a continuation of what is noted in that letter that was provided to

you tonight. If that's something you're amenable to. Or we can go in a different direction if you would like until this process with the residential permit parking has gone through the steps, just because it won't all happen tonight.

Chairman Barry stated you're recommending that we keep what is in place right now, continue that until the next one is worked out.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated until something else can come into fruition that can take its place and then we'll rescind that emergency order.

Alderman Long stated Union Street, both sides; Amherst Street to Hanover Street; I know on the west side of Union Street there are church parking lots. What Alderman George-Kelly is talking about is Union to Beech on Amherst Street, which there is residential houses to the north of Amherst.

Alderman George-Kelly stated on Beech there are residents between Amherst and Hanover Street. But Amherst and Hanover don't have any residential on those two sides. Even residential parking doesn't take into consideration the number of employees that park in that area.

Alderman Long stated the employees on second and third shifts. I'd like to collaborate with Alderman Fajardo. That's her area. I want to make sure she is ok with whatever we do here. So, what would be the motion needed?

Clerk Normand stated it is up to this Committee. If you want to maintain the temporary order that is in place now.

Alderman Long moved to approve the traffic agenda and maintain the current regulations at Bronstein Park until the next meeting when it can be reviewed.

Alderman Trisciani stated I still have a concern initially with the temporary order because I think we went in with a sledgehammer rather than handling the challenge of having three or four people living in their cars. Rather than try to solve that situation, we went in and created this whole bee's hive with the businesses in the area and with the residents in the area. On this plan today, I'm not seeing that we took into account the lofts on the corner of Union and Hanover Street that has a significant number of residents. There is some parking available, a lot of them rely on the residential parking. I'm not sure if they are in Zone 8 to get permits. We have the Waypoint workers that have to spend overnight and need a safe parking spot to get to and from work. We've got several businesses in this area that need employee parking that now the 2-hour only parking is not sufficient for them working a shift at their job. The south side of Hanover Street has 2-hour parking and that's misleading because there is no parking on that side of the street. That's essentially spots, unless you're planning on adding spots there which I don't believe there is room, that is kind of misleading because there are no spots there. On the Union Street side, we did take away from parking visiting the churches there, people trying to go to the businesses. Again, we've also got Central High School that parks in that area during school whether it is teachers or students. We went in with something very heavy-handed rather than understanding the problem and the challenge we are trying to solve. I would not be for extending, nor would I be for

these changes at this time without more discussion and review of what the problem is we are trying to solve with this.

Chairman Barry asked what is the motion.

Alderman Long stated his motion was to approve the traffic agenda and maintain the current regulations at Bronstein Park until the next meeting when it can be reviewed.

Alderman George-Kelly asked can we review what the current situation is.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated I don't have the letter on hand, but I believe it was no parking dusk until dawn on all sides of Bronstein Park.

Alderman Long stated so this is the current situation there.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated the letter in front of you dated June 9, that is the current situation.

Chairman Barry stated what the problem is going to be, unless we take all those signs down, if we designate for example on Beech Street which is the vicinity of Waypoint people able to park there, you take those signs down or its permit only or whatever we come up with. If don't come up with permit only, and we don't have any permits so I guess we'll have to deal with Chris on that, then Waypoint employees are going to have to get their permits to park there because once you open it up, we'll be back at square one where people that we want to keep out of there that are staying overnight in their vehicles are going to go back there and park if we don't designate it no parking.

Alderman Long asked if we do not enact the Beech Street both sides from Amherst to Hanover, and leave that open, would that suffice. Or do you need more? Is Union Street too far?

Alderman George-Kelly stated it is like Alderman Trisciani said. Yes, I work for Waypoint so that is a consideration for me but there are many more businesses and residents in that area that need to be considered as we're thinking about how to move forward.

Chief Aldenberg stated you're just going to push them to a different park. We've already pushed them down towards Victory Park. I caution, and advise to take that into consideration.

Alderman Stewart stated I agree, it is pushing. No matter what we do. This right now, they are being pushed if they can't park there. Same thing if they can and we rely on targeted enforcement. We certainly need to address this a little more holistically instead of this kind of spot regulation. I'm not sure what this is accomplishing. I agree, I think it does seem to be like the cure is worse than the disease almost.

Alderman Long asked should we put it back to the way it originally was. I'll make that motion.

Chairman Barry asked so originally how it was prior to them putting the no parking signs up.

Alderman Long stated no parking. It was parking on Amherst, Union, and Beech.

Chief Aldenberg stated you want to rescind that June 9th letter.

Alderman Long stated yes. Like Alderman Trisciani said, address the issue.

Chief Aldenberg stated I think collaboratively we came up with a solution for the Committee and for the Board based off the correspondence that we were all receiving. Again, it came out of a homeless encampment meeting. You folks were looking for a solution and that's all we provided. I just want to make that clear.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to rescind the temporary traffic regulations at Bronstein Park.*

Chief Aldenberg asked will item 33 be discussed this evening.

Clerk Normand stated it will remain on the agenda and if the Board wants to take up the residential parking piece of this ordinance, then it will be up for discussion tonight.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to approve the balance of the traffic agenda.*

2. Communication from Kleinfelder, Inc. regarding the Christian Brook Sewer Separation Project, Contract 2, Roadway Design and Traffic Improvements.
(Note: Provided for informational purposes only; no action is required.)
3. Communication from Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, recommending an ordinance amendment relative to parking on public streets during snow emergencies and to allow for more efficient cleaning of streets following snow storms.

Alderman Long moved to approve and refer the Ordinance Amendment to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review. **Alderman George-Kelly** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long stated I want to make sure that the language addresses the issue that we originally had. So, if somebody calls in that there's a car at 5AM left on the street, the plows went around it, at 6AM you can't ticket them. Does this address any of that?

Mr. Friend-Gray responded yes. This language allows for vehicles that have obviously have not moved, i.e., covered in snow, for that to be immediately address and not have to be posted for 24 hours and then addressed.

Alderman Long stated I'm not looking for cars to get towed. I'm looking at if we haven't had the opportunity to give them a ticket, a ticket would be at least giving them a warning that there is a snow emergency and they have to move their car. I want to be

sure that at 6AM, somebody is there at 7AM, you go by the street and there are cars still there from the snow emergency that they can be ticketed.

Mr. Friend-Gray replied yes.

Chairman Barry called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

TABLED ITEMS

4. Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding an inquiry from Brad Pernaw in reference to parking in front of the Common Man Roadside restaurant at 451 Commercial Street.
(Note: Items #1 and #3 of the request were received and filed at the 9/6/2022 committee meeting. Item #2 regarding the installation of a park & pay kiosk is the only item on the table.)
5. Communication from the City Solicitor's Office recommending that the citizen proposal for an amendment to ordinance Section 71: Snow Emergency Regulations not be adopted.
(Note: Tabled 6/6/2023)

These items remained on the table.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee