

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
Parking and Traffic Committee Regular Meeting
June 23, 2011

The Parking and Traffic Committee met in formal session at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, June 23, 2011 in the Alcazar Conference Room, City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Len Weeks, Chairperson and the following were present:

1. Roll Call Len Weeks, Chairperson
Ken Russom
Clyde Taylor
Verna Brown
Richard Pinto
Jerry Dixon

Absent: Phil Moan (Excused)

City Staff Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller
Ron Brown, City Attorney
Carly Mason, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 28, 2011 Regular Meeting and the May 26, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved as presented.

3. Discussion provided by Gordie Wilson, Superintendent, National Park Service

Mark Litzinger stated that the Fort parking lot would be directly connected to the construction of the Visitor Orientation Center (VOC). He said Gordie Wilson had proposed to increase the parking meters fees to be consistent with the surrounding meters. He said Mr. Wilson's negotiations with the City would include the following:

- Install lighting
- Install pay stations
- Periodically street sweep parking lot
- City police officers would periodically monitor the lot
- Length of time for meter use would be discussed

Mr. Litzinger said the city had a yearly revenue of \$150,000.00 from the Fort parking lot.

4. Discussion regarding Carriage Routes

Mark Litzinger explained that he had taken a carriage ride that utilized the proposed right hand turn route.

Kelly McDaniel, Avalon Carriages, explained that the right hand turn route would maintain the 45 minute carriage ride and had the least amount of traffic concerns.

Mr. Litzinger questioned the half way point rest period.

Ms. McDaniel replied that the church would continue to be a resting point for the horses and allow the patrons to view the church. She expressed concern with turning onto Martin Luther King Avenue from Cedar Street and suggested placing a mirror on the street poles to increase the visibility. She suggested that the traffic light at Martin Luther King Avenue be extended and horse carriage signs be posted along King Street

and Avenida Menendez to increase awareness.

Mr. Russom questioned the carriages hours of operations.

Ms. McDaniel replied the carriages operated from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with shift changes in between those hours.

Mr. Moan stated that the right hand turn appeared to be the most productive.

MOTION

Mr. Moan MOVED to FORWARD the committee's recommendations to the City Commission. Motion SECONDED by Ms. Brown.

VOTE ON MOTION:
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion regarding handicap parking

Martha Graham, Director, Public Works, explained that a number of parking lots throughout the City provided handicap parking spaces. She said the city had a total of 47 handicap parking spaces with 45 spaces located in parking lots, one space located on Cathedral Place and one space located on Marine Street. She explained that the law currently had no requirements for on-street handicap parking; however, requirements were in place for parking lots. She said the parking lot and on-street handicap spaces currently met the Federal Guidelines. She said based on the cumulative calculations the City would need to add 16 handicap spaces in the parking lots and 12 on-street handicap spaces. She indicated that the installation of a handicap ramp would cost approximately \$500 to \$600 dollars per space.

Mr. Litzinger commented that placing a van accessible handicap space on Cathedral Place could create a safety hazard.

Ms. Graham explained that a usage survey on the existing handicap spaces would be conducted before a recommendation would be sent to the City Commission.

Merrill Roland explained that a previous lawsuit had been brought forth by Bob Jones. He said Mr. Jones attorney's had asked for assistance in continuing to achieve handicap compliance.

Mr. Dixon explained that the number of handicap spaces would vary by the type of use.

Mr. Brown said the City was required to comply with ADA compliance, which the City regularly monitors.

Mr. Pinto questioned the usage and location. He asked if the survey would provide a list of the most frequented handicap spaces, and the response was affirmative.

Mr. Weeks said from a safety standpoint he would suggest placing additional handicap spaces in the parking garage.

James Bond said people with disabilities would prefer to have an easily accessible space, such as the last space in a row or a space located on the right side of the street. He suggested designated signage to better assist people.

Mr. Pinto questioned whether the handicap spaces stated that the spaces were van accessible only, and the response was no.

Mr. Litzinger indicated that a handicap sign could not be legally posted without the space receiving additional modifications.

Mr. Weeks suggested that Ms. Graham continue to research the usage of the existing handicap spaces.

6. Other Business

(None)

7. Consideration of Next Scheduled Meeting – August 25, 2011

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 A.M.¹

¹ Transcribed by Carly Mason