

Macalester Groveland Community Council Transportation Committee Minutes

December 12, 2011

Attending: Andy Albrecht, Jack Fei, Milton Papageorge, Dave Redmond, Joel Clemmer, David Redmond, Mike Kowski, Afton Martens (Staff), Ben Hartberg (Secretary), Jay Mac Bride (Chair)

Guests: Clarence Chaplin, Lynn Windsworth, Kjensmo Walker, Jim Savoie, Joseph Frank, David Amdur, Dennis Beahan, Steve Gary, Ed Stromme, Ed Schippa, Carson Gorecki, Pamela Norby, Linda Snyder, Sara Mountain, Elizabeth Stiffler

Minutes: Jay introduced himself and the board members gathered this evening.

Area 21 Parking Permit Petition Overview:

Sara Mountain, the petitioner, introduced herself and provided a brief reasoning why she and the other signees of the Area 21 permit marking petition are seeking this action from the City of Saint Paul in their neighborhood. There was growing community concern about the lack of on-street parking for residents and Ms. Mountain took the initiative to seek petition signatures for a permit area

Area 21 Permit Parking City Proposal:

Elizabeth Stiffler from the City of Saint Paul, provided an area map noting the surrounding areas that have already been made permit parking only and noted the hours/days these rules were in force. Ms. Stiffler noted that this Area 21 petition had the necessary number of signatures to make the petition valid and parking in this area would be limited to permit-only from 9AM-5PM. All paperwork must be turned-in to the city offices by December 14. Once submitted, the city council has several months to act on the petition.

Discussion:

Numerous guests spoke about this proposed permit parking area. Below are their comments as part of the open-floor discussion:

- Many noted that students at the University of St. Thomas are the largest population of on-street parkers during the day and even during some evening when night classes are in session.
- If the east side of the street get this permit, then the west side will likely follow suit, as the transient day parkers will simply move down to the un-restricted parking area.
- Does St. Thomas have a parking plan/requirement? Ms. Stiffler said they do have a parking master plan on-file with the city and expansion plans submitted are reviewed for proper parking compliance.
- Enforcement of existing parking permit area violations was noted by many as an on-going struggle.
- The hours of Area 21 permit parking will be changing from 8AM-8PM to 9AM-5PM with adoption of this proposed petition. Many were concerned that the change in hours would have a negative impact to existing permit areas.
- It was suggested that the Transportation Committee challenge the petition establishing the restriction hours of 9AM-5PM.

Jay Mac Bride closed open forum discussion and opened up discussion to members of the committee. Discussions included the following comments:

- What, if anything, can the University of St. Thomas do about making their ramp off Cretin Avenue less expensive to day parking students and possibly free to night students?

- Since there were two petitions being circulated and the one with the 9AM-5PM hours obtaining the minimum number of signatures, did residents truly understand the implications of the petition (in shortening the parking restriction hours)?
- Would the City Council approve the petition, given the amount of discontent in tonight's forum discussion by area residents?
- It was strongly advised that this petition not be sent to city council until we had community-level disagreements either resolved or under consensus.

Dave made a motion that the transportation committee support the petition Ms. Mountain had provided, with the adequate number of signatures, and making the Area 21 permit hours 9AM-5PM. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Joel made a motion to table the petition until our January transportation committee meeting. Joel further clarified that his reasoning for his motion was so the committee could gain further insight from both Area 21 and the surrounding area residents, both for and against the petition. Milton seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 3 nays.

Following this passing of the motion, discussion ensued about next-steps.

1. Schedule and notify further questions about the city process.
2. Revisit this item in January, as Old Business, primarily discussing the permit hours & boundaries.
3. Dave will discuss with the University of St. Thomas/WSNAC group about on-campus parking and how to ask off-campus parkers to be respectful of neighborhood parking and the upcoming permit area.
4. Ask Ms. Stiffler to return in February where we inform her of our January discussion regarding permit hours and permit boundaries.

Dave moved the meeting adjourn, Milton seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM.

END OF MINUTES