

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of October 24, 2007

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Benbow, Chairperson
Richard Kaufman, District 1
Vacant, District 2
Charles Coronado, District 3
Lynette Lewis, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael Benbow at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Roll-Call: All Commissioners were in attendance when Commissioner Kaufman arrived at 7:02 p.m.
 - b. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Coronado moved that the August 27, 2007 minutes be approved. Chairperson Benbow seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a 3-1 vote. Commissioner Lewis abstained.

Commissioner Coronado moved that the September 26, 2007 minutes be approve. Commissioner Kaufman seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a 3-1 vote. Commissioner Lewis abstained.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearings: None
- IV. Other Business:
 - a. Street Name Change: Ardath Avenue/Thoreau Street to Crescent Drive

Senior Transportation Planner William Barnett explained the purpose of this meeting is for the Commission and the residents to discuss the possible merits and problems with renaming a particular street in southeast Inglewood. Following Mr. Barnett's explanation of possible problems with a street having two names, Chairperson Benbow asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Herman Boiken stated he resides at 11110 Ardath Avenue, explained his opposition to the possible change of street names and presented the

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Chairperson with a petition he said has 66 signatures of residents who are against Ardath Avenue/Thoreau Street being changed to Crescent Drive.

The following persons also spoke in opposition (residents who gave addresses on the subject street being considered for renaming are shown with an asterisk):

Henry Brown, no address given
John Tomlinson, 2723 W. Thoreau Street
Frank Wheeler, no address given
(*) Johnnie Poland, 11117 S. Ardath Avenue
(*) Charlie Walker, 11111 S. Ardath Avenue
(*) Paul Manning, 2819 W. Thoreau Street
Julius Dickson, 2320 W. Thoreau Street
Rosie Dickson, 2320 W. Thoreau Street
(*) Anthony Dotson, 11133 S. Ardath Avenue
Nora McKenzie, 2717 W. Thoreau Street

Commissioner Coronado thanked the residents for coming and said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the street name change.

Commissioner Kaufman thanked the residents for coming and speaking for their community. He stated his chief concern is about emergency access on this street and possible confusion for those who may have difficulty finding a street in an emergency. Commissioner Kaufman said he would go with the wishes of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Lewis also thanked the residents for coming. She expressed her displeasure with the proposal to rename her street and stated she felt the City should instead invest funds on improving handicap access at the street corners. She stated the street should retain its two names.

Chairperson Benbow said the Commission needs this type of feedback from the community and encouraged the residents to continue to come out and express their opinions on matters.

Chairperson Benbow asked Mr. Barnett if any letters were received on this matter.

Mr. Barnett replied there was none.

Mr. Barnett clarified some points by saying that the Public Works Department is divided into various divisions and that matters regarding curbs and sidewalks are handled by the Engineering Division. Mr. Barnett stated he will inform the Engineering Division that there is a need for handicap ramps on this street.

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Commissioner Kaufman made a motion that no further action be taken on this matter regarding the renaming of this street.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

In response to a suggestion by Commissioner Kaufman about street directions, Mr. Barnett stated they are already South Ardath Avenue and West Thoreau Street.

Commissioner Lewis requested additional signage to reduce any confusion about the two street names.

V. Public Comments

Ms. Charlene Jackson-House commented on insufficient handicap parking in the Centinela Hospital parking lot.

Commissioner Kaufman stated matters regarding hospital parking and fees must be addressed to the hospital.

Mr. Barnett described both the on-street parking and the two hospital parking lots. He said since hospital is a private facility, the City cannot require them to alter their parking except when they are expanding their facilities and need City permits.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested Ms. Jackson-House get a petition and present it to the hospital at one of their general meetings.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives

Commissioner Kaufman stated he was still concerned about the new intersection at Marlborough Avenue and Warren Lane.

Mr. Barnett replied the work is not finished and the City has given the contractor an ultimatum to complete this work as soon as possible.

Commissioner Coronado complained about vehicles being parked on his street longer than 72 hours.

Mr. Barnett stated that Commissioner Coronado should contact Ms. Tanya Perry in the Parking Enforcement regarding the parking situation on his street.

Commissioner Lewis recommended better synchronization of signals on Crenshaw Boulevard to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

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Mr. Barnett stated there are several improvements on the horizon for Crenshaw Boulevard, and described some of them to Commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about additional turning lanes on Century Boulevard for better access to Home Depot.

Mr. Barnett said a traffic study of Century Boulevard will be conducted soon.

Chairperson Benbow stated some street signs are losing their color. He said he is not sure why this is happening and the sign in front of his house is hardly readable.

Mr. Barnett said the color red is the biggest problem because it fades much faster than the other colors, and due to limited staffing to replace them, there are many faded signs in need of replacement.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if there will there still be a Parking and Traffic Commission after Mr. Barnett's departure.

Mr. Barnett replied the Commission is established in the Municipal Code.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.