

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of February 25, 2009

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Benbow, Chairperson
Norris Turner, District 1
Elizabeth Weaver, District 2
Charles Coronado, District 3

STAFF MEMBERS

Harry Frisby, Public Services Superintendent
Angela Williams, Actg. Environmental Services Mgr.
Brian Montgomery, Traffic-Parking Enforcement
Alan Mai, Associate Traffic Engineer
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

I. Meeting was called to order by Pro-tem Commissioner Elizabeth Weaver at 7:05 p.m.

a. Roll-Call: Four Commissioners were in attendance. Commissioner Lynette Lewis was absent. Chairperson Michael Benbow arrived at 7:09 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said before beginning the meeting.

b. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Weaver, who was absent from the last meeting held in September 2009, requested a clearer understanding and clarification of the minutes from that meeting.

Commissioner Turner and Chairperson Benbow clarified the minutes to Commissioner Weaver.

Associate Engineer Alan Mai will give a copy of the presentation brochure to Commissioner Weaver.

c. Commissioner Coronado moved that the minutes of September 24, 2009, be approved. Chairperson Benbow seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote. Commissioner Weaver abstained.

II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None

III. Public Hearings: None

IV. Other Business:

a. Trash Pick-Up and Street Sweeping Operation Issues

Commissioner Weaver brought to the attention of Public Works some residents' complaints about problems they are having with trash pick-ups

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and street sweeping operation on their streets particularly on holidays and confusion in ticketing on holidays.

Commissioner Weaver requested that the Commission revisit and resolve the issue regarding the ticketing of residents due to post-holiday parking that conflicts with trash pickup operations.

V. Public Comments:

1. Mari Morales, 1127 East 67th Street, Inglewood, CA

Ms. Morales said she had a problem with the holidays and trash pick-up days and the ticketing of cars on trash day. She reported it to Code Enforcement who suggested she contact Waste Management (WM). WM said it was the City's responsibility.

Ms. Morales stated she has the names of all the people she called. Chairperson Benbow asked her to bring in that list to the Parking and Traffic Commission secretary located on the third floor, Public Works Department.

Chairperson Benbow also recommended that Ms. Morales come to the Council meetings to let them know there is a problem with ticketing and trash pick up on holidays, etc.

Commissioner Turner suggested if possible Ms. Morales get the names of the people ticketed in District 1 and bring them into Parking and Traffic Enforcement as well as to one of the Council meetings.

Commissioner Turner said he would like a copy of the list to if Ms. Morales is able to provide one.

Commissioner Weaver suggested the ticketing problem be handled in a more general way as the problem is not just in District 1 but other Districts as well. There is confusion when the trash pick-ups and holidays conflict. This confusion needs to be resolved.

2. Bill Smith, 401 La Colina Drive. Mr. Smith's problem is with sweeping. Mr. Smith stated his street is very secluded and elm trees are next to the railroad tracks and have grown out to the street. When the sweeper comes down west on La Colina Street and turns around at the end of the street the sweepers only sweep the railroad side due to the elms that are grown out. Mr. Smith did not understand a sweeper being out of order for two weeks and the City not rent one to replace it.

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Chairperson Benbow stated the City just purchased a sweeper and will purchase another one soon.

Mr. Smith said a camera should be installed to stop the illegal dumping on this street. Sometimes, it sits there for weeks and weeks before it's removed.

Superintendent Harry Frisby stated the City is not responsible for private property trash but if trash is in the street the City will take care of it.

Commissioner Weaver stated that since this is a private lot, the City can only cite the owner for the trash.

Chairperson Benbow asked Alan Mai to check into why the sweepers do the railroad side and not the other side. Mr. Mai said he would look into this matter.

3. Ethel Austin, 230 Stepney Street, District 2. Ms. Austin said street sweepers do not keep the streets clean because they are not properly trained. She complained about the unhealthy food vendors serving this district and that the City needs to stop it as it is unsanitary for our children.

Chairman Benbow said the City has to do a better job of following up on requests that residents report to the City.

4. Vickie Wippel, Community Relations Manager, Waste Management. Waste Management in partnering with the City does it best to inform the residents about trash pickup during the holiday. WM uses outbound calls to remind residents there will be a change in services on holidays that WM observes. WM doesn't have any control or input in the street sweepers' schedule.

Commissioner Turner said he did not understand why other districts are not getting the information that his district gets on a regular basis.

Ms. Wippel stated again that public education is important to WM and that WM will be working to become more efficient with the public

Commissioner Weaver asked about community outreach programs. Ms Wippel stated that it seems residents need better clarification on what side of the street to park on during WM pick up when there is a holiday and street sweeping to avoid getting a ticket or their cars damaged.

Commissioner Turner said we need to address how to help the residents who are trying to be helpful to WM.

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Ms. Wippel said she will get more information to help residents and forward to Acting Environmental Services Manager, Angela Williams.

Anne LaRose. 317 East Ellis Avenue, Inglewood 90302. Ms. LaRose suggested suspending ticketing altogether on a holiday to solve the problem. Ms. LaRose suggested that the issues discussed at the Parking and Traffic Commission meeting be taken to the Commissioner's Council person to get feedback, answers and solutions.

Commissioner Turner stated he does inform his Councilman of all the events that occur at these meetings but Commissioners' authority is limited. However, we do recommend to the Council Members requests made here and forward to them for approval.

Commissioner Weaver asked what Commissioners can do about the trash and what can be proposed in general about this situation.

Brian Montgomery of Parking and Traffic Enforcement explained briefly how the street sweepers come in and sweep the streets and WM follows to pick up the trash. Holidays for WM differ from holidays for the City, which may cause some confusion for some residents regarding parking. Mr. Montgomery discussed how the trash is picked up during holidays and when there is a holiday on a regular trash pick up day that the trash is picked up the following day through Saturday.

Commissioner Weaver asked how is Saturday pickup during holidays communicated to the public at large and how does it affect the parking of their vehicles?

Mr. Montgomery said that most likely there is parking on both sides of the streets on Saturdays depending on the street.

In reply to a question by Commissioner Weaver as to whether it is the City or WM's responsibility to inform residents of change in trash pickups during the holidays, Chairperson Benbow stated that primarily it is the City's responsibility.

Commissioner Weaver said the Commissioners need to put something in writing.

Chairperson Benbow stated that staff takes Commissioners' suggestions to the City Council, City Administrator and/or Public Works Director. The Commissioners will get some written information together and submit to Alan Mai.

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Commissioner Initiatives:

Chairperson Benbow stated he was concerned about the lack of staff in the Transportation Section of the Public Works Department. He said the City has gone way too long without filling essential and important positions in this section to help do the jobs sorely needed. Mr. Benbow suggested that we contact our City Administrator about filling some of those positions in Transportation so that some things can begin to get done.

In reply to a question asked by Commissioner Weaver, Mr. Frisby said he does know the positions are out for recruitment but is unaware if any qualified applicants have been received at this time. These positions have been posted on the City's website, in Human Resources and other organizations.

In reply to questions asked by Commissioner Weaver, Mr. Mai said Transportation has three positions open and it is down to only one.

In reply to a question by Commissioner Weaver as to who to consult regarding the lack of personnel, particularly in the Transportation Section, Mr. Frisby said the City Administrator and the Public Works Director would be the ones to contact.

Chairperson Benbow said he will make a written request to the City Administrator to urgently fill these positions in the Transportation Section.

Chairperson Benbow suggested the Commissioners do an initiative for staff to put together requesting urgent staffing for the Transportation Section.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.