

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SONORA  
PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
APRIL 12, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Parking and Traffic Commission was held in the Conference Room at City Hall, 94 N. Washington Street, Sonora, CA on this date.

The following members of the Commission were present: Chair Jim Garaventa and Commissioners Mike Lagomarsino, Mark Plummer, Turu Vanderweil and John Richardson. Absent was Aimee New. Also in attendance was City Administrator, Tim Miller.

Jim Garaventa opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Motion by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Vanderweil, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 and November 9, 2016 Parking & Traffic meeting, as mailed.

**MOTION:** Richardson    **SECOND:** Vanderweil

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        Richardson, Vanderweil, Lagomarsino, Plummer and Garaventa (5)  
                  **NOES:**        None (0)  
                  **ABSTAIN:**    None (0)  
                  **ABSENT:**     New (1)

**Old Business: None**

**Items to Be Acted Upon:**

- 1. Consideration of a request from Joan Richardson to request the loading zone in front of the Candy Vault be moved to across the street near Tar Flat Antiques to assist the business in that area in need of a loading zone.**

Prior to today's meeting, staff was notified that this item was cancelled and it was removed from the Agenda. No action was taken.

- 2. Consideration of a request from Margie Paxton-Fromm to request one or two loading zones on Theall Street.**

Margie Paxton was present and opened the discussion. She spoke about being in business downtown for the last 20 years, operating Legends Books and Antiques in two separate locations downtown. She stated that she feels downtown business is not supported by locals due to the lack of available parking. She went on to say "we need to fix the parking". She asked Commissioners to consider her request to provide a loading zone somewhere near her business, perhaps on Theall Street.

She also admitted to receiving a parking ticket for illegally parking in front of her business on S.

Washington Street, while unloading items for her business. She feels that the downtown merchants are the “greeters” of Sonora and it would be helpful if parking was made easier.

Aimee New arrived to the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Commissioner Vanderweil asked Ms. Paxton to clarify where she wanted the loading zone. She stated right before Legends, in the wide areas on S. Washington Street. She felt that there may be room to utilize 1-2 spaces there in the existing red zone. She also mentioned the possibility of adding a loading zone behind the last parking space on Theall Street.

A member of the public discussed loading zones on Jackson, Bradford and along the west side of the Union Democrat. It was mentioned that Theall Street has 2 spaces but no loading zone. Discussion continued regarding large trucks loading and unloading for several businesses in the early morning hours.

Commissioner Plummer commented that he noticed a rear access for Legends Books and Antiques on S. Stewart Street and asked if Ms. Paxton used that entry. She advised she did but it was not used for loading and unloading due to limited room.

Commissioner Vanderweil advised he had stopped on Theall Street and parked his City vehicle, which is of a larger utility-type vehicle. He measured the distance from the curb to the other side of his vehicle, which was 9 feet.

Commissioner Garaventa asked if there was space in front of the Barber Shop on the corner of S. Stewart and Theall Street to add a loading zone.

Commissioner New advised that it would be a problem as the turning radius onto south bound Stewart Street, especially for fire engines.

Commissioner Richardson agreed that more loading zones were needed and that the Commission should look at possible areas that may be available.

City Administrator, Tim Miller, commented that Public Works could identify locations within the City that may accommodate loading zones.

Bill Seldon, Public Works Supervisor, advised that during the early morning hours he regularly sees large semi-trucks turning from Stockton Street onto S. Washington that use the widest area of Washington Street to “cheat” to be able to navigate downtown. He spoke of the recent damage to the deck posts in front of the old City Hotel Building that is located on the corner of S. Washington and Theall Streets. A vehicle hit them on two separate occasions.

Discussion continued regarding available areas downtown. Commissioner New asked the applicant if she needed the loading zone for herself? Ms. Paxton advised she does and she sells large items that are difficult to carry out to her customers. She stated it was not permanent parking, just needed to unload.

Commissioner Vanderweil suggested to have a common location, possibly on Stewart Street to access other businesses as well, that way it would serve as a centralized location to serve multiple vendors and businesses to create a legitimate space to park.

Commissioner Garaventa suggested that loading zones be a topic for discussion at the Town Hall meetings to determine where to best locate additional zones.

Applicant, Margie Paxton asked if her idea would be completely nixed? She was advised it was not but, the Traffic Commission would look into other ideas. She said she appreciated City staff looking at the area on Theall Street and measure for the possibility of locating a space there.

Commissioner Richardson supported the idea for bringing back the item for a future discussion and asked how to best identify possible loading zone areas.

Bill Seldon advised that Public Works staff could work with the Police Department and go out to review areas together, as well as other possible locations and come back to the Parking and Traffic Commission with ideas.

It was the consensus of the Committee to table the item and have the Public Works and Police Department staff work together to evaluate workable loading zones that are appropriate. This would include input from the business owners at a future Town Hall Meeting.

Commissioner New recommended test driving the recommended areas to ensure there is enough turning radius for the engines. She mentioned problematic areas such as the corner of Theall and Stewart as well as Jackson and Stewart Streets.

**Discussion/Informational Items:**

A member of the public advised that this year was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the local transit and Tuolumne County Transit will have a booth at the Spring Festival on April 29th. She stated she feels people should use public transit to come to downtown.

Commissioner Plummer discussed drivers on northbound Washington, near the intersection of Elkin cutting the corner as much as 1 ½ feet when making the turn onto Washington Street, well into the pedestrian walking area. He asked if there was any way to install something to keep vehicles further from pedestrians.

Bill Seldon said they make rumble strips for the road that could be placed there.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Campbell,  
Community Development Specialist