

****MINUTES****
MAYOR'S ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019

The Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission met at the James J. Eagan Center, Room 2, on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., with Mike Mott presiding.

Members present were: Donna Smith-Pupillo (Ward 1), Don Adams (Ward 2), Mike Mott (Ward 3), Greg Keil (Ward 4), Teri Reiter (Ward 5), Pete Fischer (Ward 6), and Zach Schneider (Ward 7). Also present were Officer Feldmann, Police Department; Gary Meyer, Street Department; and MaryAnn Fitzpatrick, Recording Clerk. Also in attendance was Councilman Siam, (Ward 9). Allen Bluiett (Ward 8) was absent and Kim Redden (Ward 9) was excused.

A quorum being present the chair declared the Traffic Commission was in session for the transaction of business.

Minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were approved as published. The July 9, 2019 meeting was canceled due to the lack of Agenda items.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

All old business was addressed and dropped from the Agenda at the June 11, 2019 meeting.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

**08/19 REQUEST NO PARKING IN FRONT OF 1600 YEARLING
 Denied
 Ward 9**

Request was made to place no parking signs in front of 1600 Yearling since the street curves there and a large vehicle parks there impeding the view of oncoming traffic. Zach Schneider said he wrote something up that he would like to read. He said, "I'm surprised that this request made it past a council member and is back on the Agenda, and I'll tell you why. I ride my bike quite often in Florissant, and after seeing this request on the Agenda, I rode my bike to this address. I didn't see anything indicating that the City of Florissant needs to put or place a no parking sign at this location. While I rode there and back home, I could count upwards of 40 or more of these exact situations where we have curves on a residential street. I believe that if we were to recommend approval to the City Council for this request, this could open up a Pandora's box, and we would be wasting valuable resources on installing no parking signs all over this City while inconveniencing good residents of these homes who live at these homes on curves on our streets. Did the Florissant citizen that requested the sign realize that the vehicles currently parked in front of 1600 Yearling will now be parked in front of their residence now? Do the occupants at 1600 Yearling agree to have their home singled out when just six houses to the north there is another curve without a no parking sign? I don't agree with singling out one resident because another is displeased with how they park their vehicle. I don't believe that the Traffic Commission is here to waste tax payers' money, and in my opinion, this sort of request is very wasteful. My vote is no." Mike Mott said he actually had the same thought. He said when he drove over there the first time, he thought if we put one of these up

on a curve, every single person on a curve is going to request something. It's going to go crazy. He said that was absolutely his same thought. He said the first time he was going to vote no and he said he would still vote no. He said he doesn't think it even meets any criteria to do that. He said he is assuming it is the person on the other side of the street that is making the request and it is not on her side of the curve. He said he doesn't agree with it himself. Pete Fischer said he went by there today and there was a service truck, a big van, on the inside of the curve as he was coming from west side of Yearling and going around. He said with that van sitting there you could still see all the way over. You could see another car coming. It was not obstructed by bushes or anything. Mike Mott said that with the new ordinance that was passed a few months ago with the new weight limits on the streets, maybe that van won't be able to park there anymore. Pete Fischer said that van was just sitting there writing a ticket or something. He was just working there and wasn't parked there for a long period of time. He said he feels like it is a non-issue. Mike Mott said he learned something when he first joined this commission. When you do something for somebody, then all of a sudden that Pandora Box is opened, and the next thing you know you're putting up 3000 stop signs on the same type of location everywhere in Florissant. He said it is the same thing with the paint. When he found out how much paint the City buys to stripe the streets and then someone else wants to stripe more streets, that's just more money and more cost to the City. Is it really necessary? He said, by the way, they did end up striping Paul Avenue. He said he thought we voted no, but they did it anyway. He said it's been that way for 60 years, why now? Gary Meyer said he didn't remember that we had discussed it here. Don Adams and Mike Mott said yes – we voted it down. Mike Mott said his councilman lives on that street so he might have clout. Mike Mott said

he looks at the bigger picture a lot, especially when you're working with the City and the cost that the City has to maintain. He said most people don't look at it from that perspective.

Don Adams said he just wants to throw this out there. First off, if Florissant was a business, OSHA would be all over them. It's a safety hazard. He said he drove over there twice today, once about 1:00 and then again about a half hour ago. He said there was nothing on the 1600 side of the street. He said if someone would park over there, there would definitely be an issue. He said the reason he says this is because, as you all know, I've brought this up in the past about Francisca. It has that curve in it where the guy owns eight cars. He said he has almost been hit eight times in the last two years coming around that curve. He said he finally managed to get the RV out of the driveway thinking that would allow them people to park their vehicles in the driveway. No. Now they have a boat that they park in the driveway and they block the sidewalk even more and they still have their vehicles in the street. He said when you come up around that curve there on Francisca it's basically a one-lane street. He said the same thing applies over on Yearling. He said if you have two vehicles coming the same way and someone is parked there, there is no room to play with. He said he is all for safety. He said people aren't courteous like they used to be. He said he understands about putting up stop signs or no parking signs or whatever. He said he understands the cost of all that. He said this is a one-time investment, and would there ever be an accident there, probably not. He said there has never been one on his street, but then again he has people living on his street now that are not as courteous as people used to be. He said last year he got cussed out because he almost slid into some guy who was coming around, and he couldn't see him, and the guy cussed him out because he couldn't see him. Mike Mott said there is truth to that, too. He said he lives on

Keeven, and he has said this a million times, in 60 years of living there, they've had 17 cars totaled in front of his house, and he is in the middle of the block, on a straight street. He said what are the odds of that. Courteous, being aware of your surroundings, that's all got to be a part of it. He said if you look at that street, three houses down you have another curve. It was stated that this is not a main street or thoroughfare. How many cars are going to be traveling there at the same time. Mike Mott said that was a good point, too. It is not a main street.

Mike Mott said years and years ago everything used to be built on a grid – north, south, east and west. Now its not. Subdivisions try to make their subdivisions look cooler and their streets go all over the place. He said look at Old Town Florissant. It's on a grid – south, north, east and west. He said he would challenge you to look anywhere in the country on the map, and in your old cities, everything is on a grid; but not today. He said you would open up a box here that would just be unbelievable. He said he also feels the requester should have gotten some information from other residents. What about the guy across the street. Is she trying to put the sign in front of her yard or across the street in front of that guy's yard. Don Adams said you want to put it on the inside of the curve. If you put it on the outside of the curve, you won't accomplish anything. Mike Mott asked Officer Feldman if there had been any accident calls on curves like this. Officer Feldman said no, not really, and Yearling specifically, no.

Councilman Siam said he heard that there was one accident there about two or three years ago right at that curve. That's what he was told by the resident. Officer Feldman said he is not familiar with that particular accident. He said at the same time he didn't go through and try to do a search by streets for all the accidents on Yearling itself. He said just through his experience and speaking with others he is not familiar with any accidents, but he is not going to say that

that one didn't happen because he didn't go through and actually search for that particular street. He said an accident would be rare. More often than not people are going to see that it is going to be a blind turn. Again, generally speaking, they do slow down. Don Adams said that if there is a car parked on that side of the street once in a blue moon, then he would say no, we don't need to put a sign up there. Because there are cars parked there on both sides of the street on a regular basis, then he would say let's give this some serious consideration.

Councilman Siam said he lives near there and they park there pretty regularly on both sides of the street. Don Adams said he has no problem with putting a sign up. Councilman Siam said he appreciates how conscious the Traffic Commission is in saving the City's money and everything, and he is too, but he is not necessarily a big fan of slippery slope logic, and he doesn't think it necessarily means that everywhere in the City this has to happen or anything like that. He said we are still free to take that on a case by case basis. He said we can address the problem accordingly if somehow it does get out of control, but he doesn't necessarily buy that logic and doesn't think that would happen. Pete Fischer said unless it would be no parking on that side of the street all the way around, from one end to the other, we'd have to have two signs. You would have to have one where it starts and one where it stops. Zach Schneider said that you might as well put them up on the entire side of the street. Pete Fischer said if you live on a street like that would you want no parking on your side. Zach Schneider asked where's the resident that lives at 1600 Yearling. Why aren't they here to address this. Greg Keil said he thinks we are assuming that the person complaining lives on the curve. It could be someone who just drives it everyday. Councilman Siam said he did invite the residents at 1600 Yearling to either contact him or come here and he hasn't heard anything from

them. Mike Mott said he has another comment. It is a horseshoe, so the only people on that street are that people that normally live on that street. Donna Smith-Pupillo said it is not a thru-street. Mike Mott agreed. It is simply a horseshoe. So if there is an issue, chances are its issues with the residents themselves that live on that street. It would have to be the four or five houses that live on that curve. Everyone else could go out the other way. He said basically they are looking at each other. He said he would ask his neighbor if they could park just a little further down or something. He said this is a horseshoe, it's not a main thoroughfare, it's not a pass-through, it's literally a horseshoe. Gary Meyer said that in the past when we've had these kinds of issues, it's when the police or the fire department sees an issue. He said there aren't very many places in the City that we've done this, but it is usually because the police or the fire department have an area that is constant and it is really tight. He said we've done it a few times but it's very rare. It's normally because they've seen an issue where the ambulances and firetrucks can't get through.

Motion was made by Mike Mott to make a recommendation not to place no parking signs on Yearling. Motion was seconded by Greg Keil. On the roll call the commission voted:
Donna Smith-Pupillo – yes, Don Adams – no, Mike Mott – yes, Greg Keil – yes,
Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, and Zach Schneider – yes. Motion carried.
Item 08/19 was dropped from the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Gary Meyer stated that this was his last meeting and it was nice working with everyone. He said he's been on the Traffic Commission for 17 years and he's retiring. Everyone wished him well and offered their congratulations.

Next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

No other items were brought before the Commission this evening. The meeting was adjourned.

For the Chairman
Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission

MaryAnn Fitzpatrick
Recording Clerk