

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023, 7 P.M.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chair James Lewis
- Vice Chair Ann Tucker (virtual)
- Annie Ebbers
- Jason Osborne
- Lavonda Bonnard
- Casey Kane
- Ashley Mihalik

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Katy North, Division Chief, T&ES
- Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner, T&ES
- Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II, T&ES
- Sgt. Dan Shultz, APD
- Capt. Jamie Bridgeman, APD

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the November 14, 2022, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes: No comments from the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Annie Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Lavonda Bonnard to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

Calandra Turnbull-Jones (virtual) spoke about parking on Fillmore Ave. where she reported that people are parking beyond the no parking signs causing issues with sightlines. Mr. Lewis asked that staff look at this location and follow up with the resident.

Roy Apseloff (virtual) spoke about construction vehicle and construction worker parking associated with the Oakville project. Ms. North noted that construction related parking is a common issue and that staff will follow up with planning and zoning to send out an inspector. Mr. Lewis asked that Mr. Apseloff submit this via 311 as well for tracking purposes.

4. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on Parklets and an update from the Alexandria Police Department on Parking Enforcement from Sgt.

Dan Shultz and Captain Jamie Bridgeman. Sgt. Schultz reported on the 2022 activity of the parking enforcement team and noted that currently of the 22 parking enforcement positions, 13 are filled and that they are experiencing difficulties with hiring and retention. Ms. Bonnard asked how they prioritize their response with limited staff. Sgt. Schultz noted that they prioritize calls for service, 311 requests, and proactive patrol. He noted that when they are fully staffed, they can cover more hot spots across the city. Mr. Kane asked if all parking enforcement officers are equipped with license plate readers. Sgt. Schultz noted that they have two have license plate readers and that they are working with Ms. North on this. Ms. Tucker noted that when she was recently in Amsterdam that there were parking enforcement cars with cameras that issued tickets via mail. Sgt. Schultz noted that we do not currently have the technology to issue tickets via mail. Ms. North noted that they would need to check with the City Attorney if such a practice would be allowable by the state.

CONSENT ITEMS

- 5. ISSUE:** Consideration of installing two-hour parking restrictions from 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Saturday, Residential Permit Parking (RPP) District 13 permit holders exempt, on the 2100 block of Potomac Avenue.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve item 5 on the consent items list. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- 6. ISSUE:** Consideration of implementing a Residential Pay by Phone requirement for the 300 block of Duke Street.

DISCUSSION: Max Devilliers presented the item to the Board.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Residents, Erril De Montille, testified in favor of City staff's recommendation, relaying that parking is impossible.

Resident, Candace Clary, testified in favor of City staff's recommendation, stating that it is very difficult to park on or near that block.

Dennis Kelly, representing the Basilica of St. Mary's, testified in opposition, stating that it would impose a burden on the way the basilica operates. Ms. Bonnard asked what the burden was and Mr. Kelly stated that the residences where priests live have visitors and contractors. Ms. Bonnard asked Ms. North if there is a process for visitors and contractors and Ms. North relayed that there are multiple ways for accommodating including installing a meter, scratch off tickets, and other methods.

Resident, Charlie Murray, testified in opposition, stating that he is worried people will park on his parking pad and that his children will have to pay to park when visiting.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve the item. The motion carried 5-2, with Mr. Lewis, Ms. Tucker, Ms. Ebbers, Mr. Cane, and Mr. Osborne in favor and Ms. Bonnard and Ms. Mihalik opposed.

- 7. ISSUE:** Consideration of a City Code Amendment for taxis that would eliminate the age of vehicle requirement and increase the initial meter charge from its current rate of \$3.00 to \$3.50

DISCUSSION: Ms. North presented the item to the Board.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Ken Bynum, the lawyer representing union cab, testified in favor of eliminating the age of vehicle requirement for taxis and increasing the initial meter charge. Mr. Bynum noted that its not just the price of gas that is high, but they can't compete with the dynamic charging or rideshare, so he asked the board to consider an increase to the per mileage charge rate.

Taxi Driver, Muhyidin Mohammed, testified in favor of eliminating the age of vehicle requirement for taxis and increasing the initial meter charge. Mr. Mohammed noted that the price of gas goes up and down, but the cost of labor continues to increase and asked the board to consider an increase to the per mileage charge rate.

Taxi Driver, Daniel Woldegiorgis, testified in favor of eliminating the age of vehicle requirement for taxis and increasing the initial meter charge. Mr. Woldegiorgis relayed that overall costs of operating and living have increased and also asked the board to consider an increase to the per mileage charge rate.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to recommend the City Council amend the city code to eliminate the age of vehicle requirement for taxis. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane to recommend the City Council amend the City Code to increase the initial meter charge from its current rate of \$3.00 to \$4.00 for taxis and request the City Manager approve a \$0.50 fuel surcharge when the current one expires in March. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to establish a sub-committee of Traffic and Parking Board members to review fees of taxis in October 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 8. STAFF UPDATES:** Ms. North provided the Board with an update regarding staffing and introduced the new principal planner, Ms. McGraw and informed the board that the Yon Lambert had been promoted from Transportation & Environmental Services Director to Deputy City Manager and Tarrence Moorer is the Interim Transportation & Environmental Services Director.
- 9. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:** Mr. Kane provided the Board with the following updates:

- City is considering no turn on reds at nine intersections
- The Complete Streets and Vision Zero websites have been updated
- Duke Street in Motion meeting occurred

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ebbers moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Mihalik seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.