



Meeting Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board

Thursday, June 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Melaniphy called the June 6, 2024 Transportation Advisory Board Meeting to order.

Melaniphy thanks the three board and two student members who termed out. He thanks Michael Brown, Matt Seeberg, Inga Orlin, Krish Saluja and Fionn Pianetto

This was accept.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present 7 - Jennifer Bruzan Taylor, Alice James, Scott Hurley, Michael Krzywinski, Michael Melaniphy, Nigel Neibel, and James Webb

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

Marc Arakelien speaks about being interested in serving on TAB.

Marilyn Schweitzer provided public comments to TAB via email. They are attached at the end of the minutes.

D. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Police Department Report

Sergeant Zook states that April was distracted driving month. May had the Memorial Day campaign, Route 59 campaign, and share the road campaign. The Independence Day campaign starts at the end of June and into July.

1. Approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024, Transportation Advisory Board Meeting

A motion was made by Webb, seconded by Hurley, approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - James, Hurley, Krzywinski, Melaniphy, Neibel, and Webb

2. Provide input on the proposed valet parking transfer zone locations for Alta Vida

Prousa gives an overview of staffs request for TAB input on the AltaVida Valet Transfer Zone request.

Mary Moy-Gregg and Edwin Rios speak on behalf of AltaVida.

AltaVida gives an overview on the history and background of the restaurant. They state that with traffic flow being a concern of City staff, the valet transfer zone will help with that. The clientele that will be going to the restaurant will need valet and it will be expected.

TAB grants extra minutes for AltaVida to speak.

AltaVida states that the spot east of Washington would be great but they prefer west of Washington. They ask that after 10:00 PM they can relocate the valet parking spaces to the west side of Washington. They are going to have people that get dropped off in front of the restaurant no matter what happens, the valet parking will help alleviate the increased flow and drop offs.

Bruzan Taylor states that the Chicago restaurants may not have been a positive for many people that lived in that neighborhood. She asks why the valet parking is needed, other restaurants on the block have not approached the City on this potential need. She states that this will create more issues on a street that has pedestrian and vehicle congestion.

Hurley asks if anything has changed on this block since the previous requests had been denied. He also asks if the other applicants have ever had a request to have different time constraints.

Prousa states that the other applicants were restaurants, and they were declined because of negative feedback from properties along the block. Staff has not received a request from the block since. Staff has never received an applicant with a request for different time constraints.

Hurley asks if we have any data regarding valet parking and whether traffic flow is alleviated when in use.

Prousa states that staff have done audit studies of valet transfer zones in the past to confirm their safety and impacts on traffic flow.

Webb asks how long ago the prior valet zone on the east side of Washington was.

Prousa states that it was approved for Kumas in 2011.

Webb asks how far a long did the process go for the previous applicants on this block of Jefferson.

Prousa states that the negative feedback came when staff sent out letters to the properties on the block. This occurred in 2010.

Melaniphy asks what exactly AltaVida is asking for in term of locations.

AltaVida states that they prefer the location in front of their property.

Melaniphy asks staff if it is allowed in the code to have different times for multiple valet locations.

Prousa states that staff will have to look over the code and find out, he also states that there would be challenges with signage to permit that.

Melaniphy states that adding another dynamic to this congested block could potentially push it over the edge in regards to congestion/traffic flow.

Sergeant Zook states that this location would be a challenge from a public safety standpoint. He states that the east side has less congestion but could potentially back up into the intersection.

Bruzan Taylor states that she is concerned about the back up to get into the valet spots and the queuing will cause further problems.

Sergeant Zook states that they agree with those concerns.

Krzywinski states that he is also concerned about the valet zone on the east side of Washington and the back up for the northbound right turners.

Melaniphy states that a new restaurant is going into the southeast corner at Washington and Jefferson.

Prousa states that that is correct but he does not have timelines on when they will open.

Melaniphy states that he feels the board is most likely not going to be in favor of this if they were to come back.

AltaVida states that they will go forward with the parking on the east side of Washington. They state that if they do not get valet parking there is a potential for people to still be dropping off in front of the restaurant.

Bruzan Taylor states that the one-hop outs are going to happen but they won't cause back up queue.

AltaVida states that they will have reservations and events where people will be coming all at once.

Melaniphy asks when the target opening date is.

AltaVida states that they plan on doing a soft opening next week.

Hurley states that having data showing that valet parking improves economics for a restaurant would be helpful.

This Report was received.

3. Approve a recommendation to add restrictions to the "U-Turns Prohibited" traffic schedule

Prousa gives an overview on the U-turn restriction agenda item.

Sergeant Zook states the signage will help with enforcement.

A motion was made by Neibel, seconded by James, approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Hurley, James, Krzywinski, Melaniphy, Neibel, Webb

E. OLD BUSINESS:

Prousa gives an update on the Washington Street Bridge Project. Washington Streetscape, and curb extensions on Mill and Douglas, and Jefferson and West.

This was closed.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

Prousa gives an update on the Sylvan Circle Construction.

Hurley asks about posting the new positions for the transportation team.

Deputy Director Jennifer Loudon gives an update on those postings. She also gives an update on the Road Improvement Plan and Bicycle Implementation Plan.

This was closed.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Webb, seconded by Hurley, to adjourn the Transportation Advisory Board Meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Hurley, James, Krzywinski, Melaniphy, Neibel, and Webb

Marilyn Schweitzer Comments

Please do not support this request by Alta Vida for either proposed location unless the Valet Parking ordinance and valet parking signage is altered to allow drop off and pickup of passengers from **any** vehicles in a designated valet transfer area. Currently, only vehicles electing to purchase valet services are allowed in such designated areas. My reasoning is as follows:

1. Not everyone wants, needs, or can afford valet parking.
2. Currently, the policy is that once an area is designated for valet parking, it can no longer be used for parking nor for other vehicles to drop-off/pick-up passengers or items. It converts public space into private business space.
3. ADA parking and places to drop-off/pick-up passengers or items is already very limited in the downtown.
4. Under the current policy, every new valet zone makes parking or drop-off/pick-up harder for non-valet customers.
5. Families with small children and low-mobility patrons deserve more public accommodation not less.
6. The lack of sufficient drop-off/pick-up places in the downtown causes vehicles instead to load/unload from vehicles in the driving lanes creating a safety hazard. We need less of this, not more.

Please verify the that signage is up to do in the downtown where valet parking is already permitted. Also indicate where valet parking is permitted and takes away other parking/loading opportunities on the Downtown Parking map:

<https://www.naperville.il.us/globalassets/media/maps/public-transit-and-parking/downtownnapervilleparkingmap.pdf>