

Takoma Park Parking Management Task Force

Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2020

Attendance

City Staff: Rosalind Grigsby, Rick

Task Force: Greg Gorman (note-taker), Jackie Davison, Claudia Wayne, Jim Douglas, Howard Schaffer, Roger Schlegel, Allen Fetter

Public: Paul Huebner (Ward 3)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
3. Presentation and discussion of parking enforcement
4. Recruitment and outreach discussion
5. Assignment of background material
6. New Business

Minutes

1) Called to order at 6:35pm.

2) Rick of the TP Police Department provided an overview of parking enforcement. Key points of discussion:

- Number and organization of parking enforcement officers, their routes, shift times, well-being/job satisfaction, and lack of quotas
- Patterns of parking enforcement violation by time, weather, area, and season
- Request from TF members for breakdown of types of parking violations
- Parkmobile app influence on parkers and enforcement efficiency of parking enforcement officers; members requested specifics on parkmobile settings in the City (e.g. whether renewals allowed)
- Enforcement is by officer discretion. There was a discussion about the efficacy of enforcement violations triggered by complaints and the City decision to not paint curbs to help guide an objective assessment of a violation.
- Parking violation definitions (e.g. feet from a driveway), fine structure and its consistency with Montgomery County fine structure. Standardization helps officers with enforcement.
- The difficulty in enforcing the residential parking permit program compared to other violations
- License plate reader (LPR) technology and its cost
- Difficulty of enforcing parking meter violations if there is an initial period for free parking and enforcing with zone parking

- Lack of use by the City of the Our Streets app for parking violation data or enforcement
- Individual spaces with individual zones, and their difficulty when not in sheltered areas like garages and the need for increased signage
- Inventory of handicapped parking spaces in Old Town and Takoma Junction, and special processes for residential handicapped parking (and other situations) managed by Public Works

3) Recruitment of additional TF members and Public Outreach

- The TF desires more representaiton from Ward 3 and Ward 4, and needs more input from other consitutencies (NH Estates, business employees, business owners, neighbors of Montgomery College)
- Avenues for recruitment of TF members were discussed (council members, piggy-back on other City-initiated gatherings, visits with neighbors, Junction Vision meeting on 2/25, neighborhood listservs)
- The TF will invite representatives from other consitutencies, with a plan for a business representative (Old Town Business Association) for an upcoming meeting.

4) Assignment of Background reading

- A proposal to divide up reading and study of background materials (e.g. consultant study, relevant code sections, specific actions on parking) was tabled.
- The consultant recommendations on parking will be 'a' starting point for discussion, not 'the' starting point.

5) Future Meeting Planning

- Feb. 26 – Residential Parking Permit presentation
- March 11 – Agenda TBA

6) New Business

- A member asked that the issue of garages be revisited
- A member suggested field-research by the task force to specific locations discussed in parking discussions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.