

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
May 20, 2019
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers Rader, Anderson, Bullock

Also Present: Director Sylvester, Dave Baas from the Planning Department, Katelyn Milius from the Planning Department, several members of the public, and Deputy Clerk Lascu taking minutes.

Call to Order: 6:06 pm

AGENDA: Communication from President O’Leary and Councilmembers George and Rader regarding parking on Edwards Ave. and Granger Ave. (Referred to Public Works Committee 3/18/19)

Councilman Rader opened the meeting discussing the parking issues on Edwards Ave. and Granger Ave. He read a note from a neighbor on Granger Ave. that expressed her concerns about parking at the Clifton and Granger intersection and the bus stop nearby. She also proposed resident only parking or relining the streets. Rader’s main concern was coming away with action steps from the committee meeting and deciding upon a best practice when it comes to determining supply and demand of parking in the city.

Councilman Anderson shared that he has worked with Officer McNeeley of Lakewood Police to analyze the parking in the Granger area. He stated that most vehicles are registered to Granger residents and that parking does not appear to be a chronic issue in the area. He added that Officer McNeeley completed this report in February 2019 and he shared this information with the rest of Council in March. Councilman Rader expressed that multiple residents raised concerns about the parking situation with him at a block club meeting. Rader did speak to the danger of subjectively dealing with parking situations on streets. President O’Leary shared his experience with resident only parking on blocks adjacent to the downtown neighborhood and added that he has not seen clear-cut support for resident only parking solving the problem.

David Baas and Katelyn Milius of the Planning Department gave a presentation regarding the parking situation on Edwards Ave. Their slides highlighted the process and analysis the Planning Department undertook in considering the development of the food truck park set to go in at the corner of Detroit Ave. and Edwards Ave. The Planning Commission approved the truck park in June. The developer added 7 spaces onto the site, added another 15 with an improved striping plan, and secured 25 more with a shared agreement with a nearby dental office. Mr. Baas’ analysis concluded that the highest parking demand was for residential parking and that off-street parking never exceeded 57% capacity. It was determined that competition for parking on the street was primarily between residents, not from people outside the neighborhood.

Councilwoman George inquired as to when the study was completed and brought up how busy Edwards Park can be during tee-ball season. Mr. Baas stated that the study was conducted in October and that tee-ball was considered as a factor in the study. He spoke with residents in

December, met with the YMCA and Rec Dept. The Rec Dept. will leverage the Y's parking spots during the season and is never more than 60% full, with the highest demand for parking at the Y taking place during basketball season.

A resident asked when that agreement will be taking place and Mr. Baas stated it should start this year. Councilman Rader added that he will contact the school board and confirm that agreement. While the Planning Department cannot exactly predict the development's effects on parking, they have been looking at methods to calm traffic on the street and dissuade folks from driving down it.

Councilman Bullock encouraged thoughtful discussion on parking and asked if anyone had any ideas on what to do in situations where there is no off street parking. A resident spoke about discussions they had had with Planning and brought up the size of Autozone's parking lot, inquiring as to how the city has approached businesses and tried to incentivize shared agreements for parking. Another resident agreed with the concept and stated that many of the changes in Lakewood (higher rents causing multiple roommates to occupy units, major attractions, etc.) have created increased demand for parking. A resident stated that she lives on a double lot behind the carwash that got replaced and she is getting trash coming into her yard from the parking lot. Mr. Baas explained the criteria for residential parking zones, noting that they are installed where there is a low demand at the start of the day, high demand throughout the morning afternoon, and low demand in the evening. They are designed to break up the crowding during the 8AM-4PM timeframe, usually in areas where people are coming from outside the neighborhood to work. He stated that the highest demand on Edwards and Granger for parking is before 9AM and after dinner, adding that giving residents parking permits on the street would not have a positive effect for them as they would just be competing against their neighbors on the street for parking. Director Sylvester addressed the resident's concerns regarding the trash, as it was added as a condition of approval. He noted that the site will be swept every night and that the Planning Commission can call the developer of the food truck park back to a hearing if they fail to do so.

An Edwards Ave. resident stated that they have not asked for parking passes, but to designate spaces from the white house on the street near the Detroit Ave. end to the railroad tracks along the east side of the street. The resident added that the street is packed on Saturday mornings and assuming there will be no disruption to resident parking after the development is complete is ridiculous.

President O'Leary pointed out some practical issues with a resident only striped district, as the effort would require people to be asked where they are coming and going from, an inability for residents to have visitors from out of town park on the street, etc. Councilman Rader stated that it seems the issue will require another meeting and added he would like to meet again before the project breaks ground, ideally in September. Councilman Bullock volunteered to speak with the Autozone owner about a parking agreement.

**Follow up discussion regarding Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)
Energized Community Grants.**

Councilman Rader transitioned the conversation to the NOPEC Energized Community Grants. Councilman Bullock stated that sustainability is a topic that we care about as a Council and that financial capacity is the most crucial part of the conversation. Councilman Rader asked if the issue is time sensitive. Director Sylvester stated that the administration is currently considering solar energy panel installation at Cove Church, continuing investment in LED streetlights, or increasing infrastructure spending on electric vehicle charging stations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.