

## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

March 14, 2017

---

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

#### B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Theron Roschen, City Engineer  
Committee Members: Julie Nelson, Planning Manager Designee  
Juan Olmos, Director of Public Works Designee  
Michael Stephenson\*, Fire Chief Designee  
(\*arrived at 2:08 p.m.)  
Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

Absent: None

#### C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

#### D. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### 1. Traffic Committee Minutes of January 10, 2017

##### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Juan Olmos Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

**Vote:** 5-0

**Voting Aye:** Theron Roschen, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,  
Michael Stephenson, Jacob Struble

Clerk's Note: Staff recommendation approved.

E. REPORTS

1. Committee Member Reports

*(At this time, it is appropriate for any Committee Member to give an informational report of any work completed, training, or other item to share with other members. Please be brief, and no action may be taken on these items.)*

Chairperson ROSCHEN gave an update on two previous Traffic Committee items, stating the City is working on the analysis for the request for an all-way stop at the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Canal Streets, as well as the neighborhood traffic calming request in the “College Streets” neighborhood.

F. BUSINESS

1. Request #17-004 – Request for a No Parking Zone at 1705 Cypress (Lt. Struble / Merced Police)

*(Merced Police Lieutenant requests the addition of a no parking zone adjacent to the driveway entrance of 1705 Cypress due to complaints of vehicles blocking the fire hydrant.)*

Committee Member STRUBLE explained the California Vehicle Code already prohibits parking within 15-feet of a fire hydrant, however, at this particular issue visibility of the fire hydrant is obscured. Lt. STRUBLE also explained that the Merced Police Department regularly receives reports of vehicles blocking the fire hydrant.

Chairperson ROSCHEN questioned whether City practice was to add red curb at the fire hydrants. Committee Member OLMOS explained that red curb is added in unique situations where visibility is an issue.

**MOTION:** To approve a 15-foot no parking zone adjacent to the driveway entrance of 1705 Cypress.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** Approve amending the current ordinance to include the no parking zone.

Theron Roschen Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

**Vote:** 5-0

**Voting Aye:** Theron Roschen, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,  
Michael Stephenson, Jacob Struble

2. Request #17-005 – Request for No Parking Zones Adjacent to the Driveway Entrances of the Creekside Apartments (Jessica Dixon)  
*(Creekside Apartments representative is requesting no parking adjacent to the apartment driveway entrances due to their concern of vehicle collisions for vehicles exiting the property.)*

Creekside Apartments representative JESSICA DIXON was present and detailed her concerns at the two driveway entrances, specifically with visibility of drivers exiting the apartment complex.

Resident ANDREW ALKEMA also spoke on the issue, citing the speed and volume of traffic along Park Avenue as being a large factor contributing to accidents at this location.

Chairperson ROSCHEN noted visibility issues, also citing the volume of traffic and heavy parking use in the area. Mr. ROSCHEN questioned the City's standard for length of no parking zones.

Committee Member OLMOS stated 15-foot zones are typical, but there is no approved standard.

**MOTION:** To approve 15-foot no parking zones on each side of the two driveway entrances to along Park Avenue.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** Approve amending the current ordinance to include the no parking zones.

Theron Roschen Moved, Michael Stephenson Seconded

**Vote:** 5-0

**Voting Aye:** Theron Roschen, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,  
Michael Stephenson, Jacob Struble

3. Request #17-006 – Request for Loading Zone at 452 West Main Street (Robert Hypes / Playhouse Merced)  
*(Playhouse Merced representative is requesting a loading zone at 452 West Main Street to make the theatre more accessible to the public.)*

Chairperson ROSCHEN explained the request was for a loading zone in front of Playhouse Merced along Main Street due to Playhouse Merced's concern of elderly or disabled patrons having a difficult time making their way to the front entrance of the theatre. Mr. ROSCHEN explained there is existing handicap spaces in the City parking lot at the rear entrance of Playhouse Merced, however, the rear entrance of the business is not ADA compliant.

Committee members discussed the location on Main Street and the need to involve the Downtown Association. Chairperson OLMOS pointed out that a loading zone would not provide ADA access, which was a main concern of the applicant, as well as the close proximity of an existing 30-minute zone slightly to the east of Playhouse Merced's Main Street entrance.

The Committee concurred a loading zone would not be appropriate, as it would be for the sole benefit of Playhouse Merced and set a precedent for all the businesses in the downtown area. The Committee was also in agreement the requested loading zone would not address Playhouse Merced's core issue of ADA access, and that updating the theatre's rear entrance to make it ADA compliant would be of the most benefit to their patrons.

**MOTION:** To deny the request for a loading zone at 452 West Main Street.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** None at this time.

Juan Olmos Moved, Michael Stephenson Seconded

**Vote:** 5-0

**Voting Aye:** Theron Roschen, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,  
Michael Stephenson, Jacob Struble

4. Request #17-007 – Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns on Yosemite Avenue at Hatch / McKee Road (Dave Fraguglia)  
*(Citizen has concerns with volume of traffic making U-turns on Yosemite Avenue at Hatch Road.)*

Citizen DAVE FRAGUGLIA was present and spoke about his concerns with the volume of traffic making a U-turn at Hatch Road on Yosemite Avenue. In addition, citizens ANDREW ALKEMA and NOEL FRAGUGLIA commented on the traffic congestion.

Chairperson ROSCHEN expressed the concern of a “train” of vehicles making U-turn and not paying attention to the potential conflict of high speed traffic on Yosemite Avenue. Mr. ROSCHEN also noted that at this location traffic from Yosemite merges into one lane. Chairperson ROSCHEN proposed a “U-turn Yield to Right Turn” sign on Yosemite Avenue at Hatch Road as a first step to address their concerns. It was felt if the U-turn traffic had to yield to the Hatch Road right turns, their attention would be more focused.

Committee Member OLMOS also stated the City’s Public Works Department would replace a missing one-way sign at the location.

**MOTION:** To investigate the use of a “U-turn Yield to Right Turn” sign at the turn-pocket on eastbound Yosemite Avenue at Hatch Road.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** None at this time.

Theron Roschen Moved, Michael Stephenson Seconded

**Vote:** 5-0

**Voting Aye:** Theron Roschen, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,  
Michael Stephenson, Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

By:

Approved:

Jamie Cruz  
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Theron Roschen  
City Engineer/Chairperson