

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2016

8:00 AM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Fourth floor, conference room

Taxicab Board

CALL TO ORDER

The April 28 meeting of the Ann Arbor Taxicab Board was called to order by the Chair, Michael Benson, at 8:09 a.m. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street.

The following persons were in attendance:

*Susan Pollay, Director of the DDA
JP Heythaler, Blue Car*

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Michael Benson, Jamie Adkins, Robert Goeddel, Jacqueline Beaudry, Kyle Lady, and Joshua Bosman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the Agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[16-0649](#)

Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2016

Attachments: 22516 Taxicab Board minutes as approved

Chair Benson requested a misspelling on page 2 be corrected ("undue" should be "undo").

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Bosman, that the Minutes of the February 25, 2016 Taxicab Board Meeting be approved by the Commission as amended and forwarded to the City Council by 6/6/2016. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Introduction of New Member Joshua Bosman

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry introduced new member, Joshua Bosman, to the Taxicab Board.

Discussion with DDA Director Regarding Dual Use Commercial Loading Zones

Susan Pollay, DDA Director, was present to discuss the recent resolution by City Council requesting that the DDA, in consultation with the Taxicab Board, reconsider the current permitted uses in Commercial Loading Zones/Taxicab Stands. The March 21 resolution requested that the DDA consult with the Taxicab Board and remove the taxicab stands that are established in conjunction with commercial loading zones and that the DDA and Taxicab Board reconsider how to best utilize the approximately 20 dual loading zones without them being partially designated as taxicab stands.

Ms. Pollay provided some history to the Board regarding the current situation, stating that the DDA has a contract with the City to manage the parking system. She stated in 2011, the Council Representative to the Taxicab Board approached the DDA regarding the conversion of twenty commercial loading zones to the current dual taxicab stand use. Ms. Pollay noted that there is a long history of townies utilizing the commercial zones for free evening parking so there were a number of complaints received by both Council and the DDA after the dual use zones were implemented.

Ms. Pollay stated the DDA parking enforcement/operations committee recently met and had a few ideas for the Taxicab Board to consider:

- 1. Modify the dual use signs to allow for "passenger pick-up/drop-off," not taxi only stands.*
- 2. The committee also considered, but acknowledged that it did not directly answer Council's directive: reduce the number of dual use commercial loading zone/taxicab stands from 20 to 6 or 10. Free public parking would be restored in the remaining spaces.*
- 3. Allow for free parking in commercial loading zones from 6pm to 11pm and then convert to taxi stands. This option was least favored as it was believed to make enforcement difficult.*

Commissioner Goeddel stated he supported the language change to passenger drop-off/pick-up and also to perhaps reduce the number of dual use stands. He requested a map of the current locations.

Beaudry noted that in her discussions with other staff members, including AAPD representatives, the passenger drop-off language was preferred, as opposed to reverting back to free parking. Beaudry stated that staff felt there was still a need for an area for cars to "stage" while dropping off or picking up passengers.

Chair Benson inquired if there was active parking enforcement at that time of evening. Officer Adkins responded that Parking Enforcement officers work until 8pm and that AAPD officers can also write parking tickets.

Benson noted that the original arrangement allowed for the differentiating of taxicabs

versus others forms of transportation, but acknowledged that is no longer the case.

The Board members informed Ms. Pollay that they would have a recommendation at their next meeting. They requested a map highlighting existing taxicab stands and commercial loading zones.

Commercial Quadricycles

Chair Benson stated he asked to discuss commercial quadricycles with the Board because he has a concern that these businesses could possibly be operating as taxicabs or providing a taxi service.

City Clerk Beaudry updated the Board on the work of the Council Liquor License Review Committee. She stated the Committee is planning to review a draft ordinance prepared by the City Attorney's Office, at their next meeting. The committee is drafting the ordinance with concerns regarding parking, traffic, passenger safety, and is also considering banning operation during major events, such as Art Fair and Football Stadium events. The Liquor Committee is also addressing whether or not the ordinance will be proposed to allow alcohol on board, said Beaudry.

Following further discussion, the Taxicab Board asked that the City Clerk provide the Council Liquor License Review Committee with their concerns regarding any operation like a taxicab, such as accepting hailed fares, and asked that this prohibition be included in the ordinance. The Taxicab Board also asked about insurance requirements and licensing requirements for drivers.

NEW BUSINESS

TNC Update

1. Settlement in MA/CA/PA
2. State Action
3. Ordinance Proposal 14-1222 Defeated by City Council

Chair Benson informed the Board that Uber has settlements in Massachusetts, California, and Pennsylvania, but noted that there has been no action at the State level regarding TNCs.

Benson asked Board Members how they felt about reintroducing the amendment to Chapter 85, regarding the licensing of non-metered vehicles for hire. City Clerk Beaudry provided the previously drafted version for the Board's review, which was defeated back in October 2014.

Board members discussed the importance of insurance requirements as part of the process of licensing or registering new drivers.

Officer Adkins stated there was recently an accident involving an Uber driver with a passenger. She stated she would follow-up and see if Uber paid out for the accident.

Goeddel questioned whether there would be support at the Council level, noting that the previous ordinance was defeated.

Officer Adkins reiterated the concerns around public safety that unregulated TNCs present from a Police perspective.

Goeddel stated that he agreed with the importance of the ordinance and the need for safety measures and he wants something in place. However, he stated he worried that the proposal would not be taken seriously by Council coming from the Taxicab Board, but might have a better chance if it came from another channel to Council.

Benson agreed, stating if the Board were taken seriously, a Council Representative would be appointed to the Board.

Benson inquired if the AAPD would support the ordinance changes. Officer Adkins noted that the focus of the non-metered vehicles ordinance, as written, is regarding driver registrations, which would help from a safety aspect, but would not be something that would be easily enforced by officers unless an issue was raised.

Committee Members discussed the proposed changes and agreed to ask Assistant City Attorney Kristen Larcom to review the ordinance and to provide any suggested changes. Officer Adkins was also asked to review the ordinance and provide changes. If possible, the proposed changes would be brought back to the Board by the next meeting.

Future of the Taxicab Board

1. Current Role
2. Continuing Need Assessment
3. Transportation Commission

Chair Benson spoke about the current role of the Taxicab Board, the enforcement of Chapter 85 of the City Code. Benson stated the Board has created regulations under the ordinance regarding the enforcement of the ordinance and the licensing of taxicabs in the City. He noted that in the last several years, the City has gone from licensing over 200 cabs to the current 26 licensed taxis operating in the City.

As previously discussed, Benson noted that a Council Representative has not been appointed to date by the current Council, noting that the previous Council Member on the Board recommended disbanding the Board due to the reduction in licensed vehicles in the City.

Benson and Vice-Chair Lady provided a rough draft of a new ordinance that would disband the Taxicab Board and create a new Transportation Board in its place. Benson asked for feedback.

After discussion, it was decided to tentatively proceed with the draft and to ask Assistant City Attorney Kristen Larcom to review the proposed changes and provide comment.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

It was noted that election of officers should be on the next agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.