

Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2013

Members Present: Michael Benson Robert Goeddel
Stephen Kunselman Eric Sturgis
Tom Crawford

Members Absent: LouAnne Bullington

Guests:
Rick Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi

I. CALLED TO ORDER – 8:39 a.m. by Mr. Benson.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Rick Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi, shared handout on Taxicab stands proposal.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Changes were made to the agenda under New Business to discuss the upcoming Taxicab Board Meeting holiday schedule for November and December.

Mr. Kunselman moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Sturgis seconded. The motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes

Corrections were made to the September 26, 2013 minutes:

- a. The second item under Old Business, Mr. Shek should be corrected to read Mr. Sheikh.
- b. The motion to deny Enter Taxicab company license should be moved to the end of the Old Business.
- c. The second item under New Business, 2nd paragraph, third sentence – the word “of” should be “or”.

Mr. Kunselman moved to approve the Board Minutes of September 26, 2013 with corrections, seconded by Mr. Goeddel. The motion passed.

2. New Site for Taxicab Stands

Mr. Crawford provided a handout/map of current taxicab stands and loading zones. Mr. Crawford said there is work to be done with signage. Currently, there are lots of restrictions for drivers to obey and is very commercial. His fear and feedback from the parking staff on dual purposing the loading zone is it will likely result in people getting tickets because they won't understand the signs. Mr. Crawford asked for help from the taxicab industry to let him know if there are stands that he has missed. He asked for input from the Board and from the taxicab industry regarding taxicab stands and signage to give to the DDA. The DDA

works closely with the police and merchant association downtown which is helpful in establishing the best location for taxi stands and signage. Mr. Crawford said the next step would be to take the DDA's recommendation to the city's parking committee. The parking committee can then work out any problems with the proposal. The executed proposal would then go to the chief engineer who would designate areas on the road.

Mr. Kunselman asked that guidance from the chief engineer be obtained first before going out and having discussion about locations. There needs to be a parallel discussion before a decision is made. He believes the Taxicab Board will be the body that makes the recommendation to other bodies. Mr. Kunselman said the taxicab stands that are outside of downtown also need to be assessed. Mr. Crawford said he would contact the chief engineer and bring the information to the Board.

Mr. Benson asked what can be done with signage. How much can we change it? How can we make people more aware of the taxicabs, i.e. painting curbs, lighted poles, etc.?

Mr. Benson asked that the chief engineer come to the next meeting. Mr. Crawford said he would invite him or just email the information to the Board. Mr. Kunselman asked that the engineer provide some sort of written guidance for the Board regarding stands and signage/dual purpose signage.

Mr. Benson asked staff to solicit input from the taxicab industry regarding the taxicab stands.

Mr. Kunselman moved to direct Tom Crawford to send a letter to the DDA inquiring about their involvement or asking for their involvement in the taxicab/loading zone reformation project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturgis. The motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Holiday Schedule Change

Mr. Sturgis moved to change the November 2013 Taxicab Board meeting to December 5, 2013 and cancel the December 2013 meeting and resume the next regular Taxicab Board meeting on January 23, 2014. Mr. Goeddel seconded and the motion passed.

VI. ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Crawford said the environmental coordinator at the city has been working on an initiative of sustainable communities and one of the questions that came up is do we have anything that encourages taxicabs to be environmental friendly such as "green taxicabs". Mr. Crawford said he doesn't know of any cabs that are "green". One of the values that the city hold is that the services we provide should be environmental friendly. If there is something we can do to encourage the taxicab industry it would be appreciated by the City.

Mr. Benson asked if we have considered giving a "green seal of approval" for businesses as well as taxis. Mr. Crawford said it has not been considered.

Mr. Crawford said he is continuing discussion on getting legislation to clarify the limo/taxi issue that has been before the Board for some time. Progress is being made.

Mr. Benson talked about the enforcement of the taxicab ordinance downtown. He has noticed over the last few weeks in the early and late evening, both near the university and on Main Street, the number of limos stopping and picking people up. While some may have been arranged, he believes the majority of them were acting like taxis. He asked what is being done to continue the enforcement of the Ordinance. He thought there may be police staff concerns. He asked if enforcement of the ordinance can be stepped up. Mr. Crawford said he doesn't believe it is a police staff concern but a matter of what they are focusing on. Officer Adkins will need to respond to Mr. Benson question at our next meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Rick Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi discussed location of taxicab stands. He said we need to make it a win/win situation for everyone, i.e., the person who needs a ride, the downtown merchants and the taxicab companies and drivers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sturgis moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kunselman seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.