

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, February 25, 2016

8:00 AM

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

Taxicab Board

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Michael Benson, called the meeting of the Taxicab Board to order at 8:17 a.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 4th Floor Conference Room, 301 E. Huron Street.

The following people were in attendance:

JP Heythaier, Blue Car

Gordon Berry

Paul Goldfield

Present: 5 - Michael Benson, Jamie Adkins, Robert Goeddel, Jacqueline Beaudry, and Kyle Lady

Absent: 1 - LuAnne Bullington

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the Agenda be approved with the following changes:

Add a second Public Comment after Approval of Minutes.

On a voice vote, the chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[16-0139](#)

Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2015

Attachments: 121715 Taxicab Board minutes

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the Minutes of the December 17, 2015 Taxicab Board Meeting be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 5/2/2016. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Taxi Stands (Commercial Loading Zones) Update

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry updated the Board on the discussion taking place regarding the public's reaction to the conversion of commercial loading zones to afterhours taxicab stands. Beaudry stated City and DDA staff members, as well as City Council Members, have received many notes from concerned residents that the taxicab stands have taken away free parking options in the evening hours downtown. Because of the reduction in the number of registered taxis in the City, Beaudry stated staff and Council have begun to question the need for so many of these spaces to be designated as evening taxi stands and conversations have involved the DDA as well.

Benson stated he is hesitant to undo this decision right away. Goeddel concurred, stating he is not interested in rushing into a change.

Following further discussion, Commissioners asked Clerk Beaudry to discuss the issue with the DDA Director, Susan Pollay.

NEW BUSINESS

Direction and Future of Taxicab Board

The Chair, Michael Benson, spoke about the limited number of licensed taxicabs in the City and how that affects the role and future of the board. Benson stated he is meeting with Mayor Taylor next week to discuss the board. Issues to be raised would be future scope and the need for a representative from City Council to be appointed.

Robert Goeddel stated he will accept reappointment to the Board while the Board decides its future. Goeddel noted that Council has not been favorable to the concept of an expanded role for the Taxicab Board.

Kyle Lady noted that the City is missing a board that studies larger transportation issues, with the exception of the role of the AAATA. He stated a broader role for the Taxicab Board could include bicycles and crosswalks as part of its scope.

Benson noted that the Board tried to react to the changing industry, but Council has not been receptive. He stated accessibility and access to transportation options is a concern that should be considered. He encouraged members to come to the next meeting with ideas regarding the Board's recommendation on its future role in the City.

Benson also noted that part of this conversation regarding the Board's future should include a continued discussion on a proposed limo ordinance and regulation of TNCs. Benson requested that the City Clerk provide the failed ordinance language for the limo ordinance as part of its next packet.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

Officer Jamie Adkins updated the Board regarding taxicab registration. Current plates and licenses expire May 30. She stated the City only licensed 104 drivers this year and 29 vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Goldfield of Metro Cab inquired as to why the City has lost so many metered taxicabs. Officer Adkins responded that many of the former taxi companies have switched to limo operations.

Benson asked Officer Adkins to follow-up and provide the board with an update regarding the number of tickets issued to Uber and Lyft drivers for violations.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.