

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Action Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

8:00 AM

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

Taxicab Board

CALL TO ORDER

The May 26 meeting of the Ann Arbor Taxicab Board was called to order by the Chair, Michael Benson, at 8:07 a.m. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street.

The following people were in attendance:

JP Heythaier, 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Lady nominated Michael Benson to be appointed Chair for another year. Commissioner Goeddel nominated Kyle Lady to be appointed Vice-Chair for another year. There were no other nominations. On a voice vote, the nominations were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16-0811 Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2016

Attachments: 042816 Taxicab Board minutes

A motion was made by Goeddel, seconded by Lady, that the Minutes of the April 28, 2016 Taxicab Board Meeting be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 7/7/2016. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Taxicab Input on DDA Recommendation to Council Regarding Dual Use Commercial Loading Zones

Commissioner Lady provided a proposed map for review by the Board. The map provided suggestions for the DDA to consider on which dual-use commercial loading zones should remain as evening taxi stands and which should be reverted back to free evening parking. Lady also stated his map shows a proposal that would add a new dual-use taxi stand at East University and North University.

Officer Adkins stated she likes the DDA suggestion that the non-taxi stand loading zones should be utilized as "passenger drop-off/pick-up" as opposed to returning to free parking. City Clerk Beaudry concurred.

Chair Benson noted that converting taxi only spaces to "passenger pick-up" spaces was effectively acknowledging Uber and other ride sharing programs are in operation and being utilized.

Board members discussed the questions from the DDA Chair, Susan Pollay.

Question One:

1. Modify the signs, and instead of "taxi stands", make these into 15-minute "Passenger Drop Off/Pick Up" zones after 6pm. Public frustration/confusion about not seeing taxis using spots will be lessened. But curb space would remain available in key locations, particularly later in the evening, for active pick up /drop off out of a lane of traffic.

Respectfully, can you please ask the Taxi Board to affirm that this would be acceptable? And if not, please ask the Board members if they have an alternate suggestion.

Commissioner Goeddel spoke in favor, stating this option would reduce traffic congestion and restricting these spaces is not the way to fight Uber, he stated.

A motion was made by Commissioner Goeddel, seconded by Commissioner Lady to affirm and support the DDA's proposal to modify existing signage to allow for 15-minute passenger drop-off/pick-up zones. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Question Two:

2. Reduce the number of loading zones used after 6pm for drop off/pick up. Attached is a map showing the location of the 24 loading zones used for this purpose, as well as the location of the permanent taxi stands.

Can you please ask the members of the Taxi Board to review this map, and give the

DDA feedback on which loading zones they believe can be released, and which should be retained after 6pm for use picking up/dropping off passengers?

Taxicab Board members compared the existing map provided by the DDA with the proposed changes in Commissioner Lady's map. It was agreed that they were looking at the dual use commercial loading zones, not existing taxi stands.

After review and discussion of the map, Commissioner Lady moved to recommend preserving 14 of the dual use loading zones for passenger pick-up/drop-off and to return the remaining 10 back to free parking after 6pm. Lady further moved that two new loading zone spaces be converted to dual use at North University, as indicated on the map. The motion was supported by Commissioner Bosman. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Chair Benson thanked Commissioner Lady for his work on this proposal.

3. FYI, another idea the DDA has been asked to consider, which doesn't directly answer City Council's directive:

A citizen has requested that some loading zones be utilized after 6pm as free on-street motorcycle parking areas. This can be done seasonally during warm weather months, or all year round. Motorcycles are vulnerable to nuisance behavior, and motorcyclists like to keep their bikes in view. Some of the loading zones being released as taxi stands could be used to pilot this option to provide motorcycle-only parking after 6pm.

Any remaining loading zones could be released for public parking after 6pm as before.

Taxicab Board members discussed this proposal, but general had some reservation about another change to downtown signage. No motion was made.

Revisions to Chapter 85 (Addition of Non-Metered Vehicles for Hire)

City Clerk Beaudry updated the Board regarding their request to have City Attorney Larcom review a previously proposed ordinance revision to Chapter 85 that would expand the ordinance to include the regulation of non-metered vehicles for hire. Beaudry noted that Ms. Larcom is on leave for about a month, but she did mention the request to Interim City Administrator Tom Crawford.

Chair Benson stated the Board would like the Attorney's Office to review the previously defeated version of this ordinance to confirm that it is still legally acceptable, if approved. He also stated he would like the focus to be on driver screening and safety aspects, as well as requirements for insurance.

Transportation Commission Proposal

City Clerk Beaudry updated the Board regarding her conversations with staff regarding the Board's proposed Transportation Commission. She noted that the Interim City Administrator would like for staff to look into this idea further. Mr. Crawford had also informed her that staff in Public Services are also looking into this issue as well, Beaudry stated. Beaudry suggested that she discuss this proposal further with other City staff who are looking at similar proposals. Beaudry noted at this point it was not ready for a legal review, but all of the different departments and groups looking at this needed to review it together.

Chair Benson requested that the item remain on the agenda and he noted that some Council Members were supportive and would like to see this move forward. He noted that Council would like the Taxicab Board to continue to review and propose changes regarding Chapter 85 and how the Board looks in the future.

The Taxicab Board decided that staff from Public Services and Systems Planning should be invited to the next meeting.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

Officer Adkins updated the Board regarding an Uber accident that occurred at Packard and Springbrook. Officer Adkins stated she did speak with the Uber driver and he reported that Uber's insurance is paying all the medical bills.

Chair Benson requested an updated chart regarding licensed taxis in the City.

Clerk Beaudry updated the Board regarding the Commercial Quadricycle Ordinance, noting it did pass at First Reading. She stated the current language prohibiting alcohol is being reconsidered by City Council. If this language is removed, the ordinance would be sent back for a new First Reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Goeddel, seconded by Lady, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.