

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, April 24, 2007 – 7:15 P.M.
Permit Parking Recommendations in Lord Calvert Manor

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Stulich and Cook; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Hampton and Krouse.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bob Levan, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Manager; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Scott Osborn, Assistant Parking Enforcement Manager.

Mayor Brayman announced that this Public Hearing was being held on Permit Parking Zones in Lord Calvert Manor, the area between Route 1, Guilford Drive and Knox Road, also known as the Knox Box area.

Bob Ryan and Jim Miller provided an overview. There is a problem with non-resident cars being parked in that area to the exclusion of residential parking. Two residential permit parking zones would be created by this proposal.

Mr. Ryan raised another issue that just come up. There was a fire early this morning at 4221 Knox Road, which is in this area. It was a severe fire but no one was injured. The fire department encountered some problems staging their equipment because parking on both sides of Knox Road narrows the road width. The fire department asked the City to consider prohibiting parking on the north side of Knox Road to create a fire lane.

Mr. Miller described the two proposed permit parking restricted zones, and discussed the amount of available parking. Creating a fire lane as the fire department requested would reduce on-street parking by more than the 12 surplus spaces calculated, but five of the Knox Boxes have adequate off-street parking and would not be eligible for on-street permits, which would offset the number of spaces taken away for a fire lane. It is his belief that the City could issue permits to accommodate the Knox Box residents. There would not be adequate spaces for visitor parking, however. Mr. Miller described the provisions that are made for move-in/move-out weekends, family weekends and other special events. Mr. Miller anticipated that the new zones could be in effect by fall semester, and described the notification and implementation process.

Councilmember Catlin clarified that the parking analysis assumes that every resident in the Knox Boxes has a car, which may not be correct. It was agreed that staff would need

to monitor the situation and may have to come back to Council with recommendations for adjustments.

Mayor Brayman invited public comment.

James Kane, 4206 Knox Road, College Park: Mr. Kane is the owner of 4204, 4205 and 4206 Knox Road. He contests having the Council vote tonight on this item because he just received some information he requested under the Maryland Public Information Act. He does not believe there was an actual petition; rather the request was an application from one person who owns properties in the area. He agreed with a staff comment that installing permit parking in this area would just relocate the parking problem. There are not enough spaces for permit parking and he does not want to inconvenience the residents. He is opposed to the proposal.

Ty Dickerson, Deputy Chief, College Park Volunteer Fire Department: Expressed concerns about the narrowness of the travel lanes in the 4200 block of Knox Road and the 7100-7200 blocks of Rossburg; discussed how the fire department's efforts were hampered during this morning's fire as a result; requested the Council consider this issue at the same time they address other parking issues in the area. Deputy Chief Dickerson also discussed the designated fire lane in front of 4328 Knox Road for the South Campus Commons. Despite enforcement efforts and no parking signs, that pull-off area is being used for parking. It is the only frontage the fire department would have if there were a fire in the South Campus Commons. He requests that pull off area be reengineered to straighten out the curb so cars will not park there.

Councilmember Fellows asked if this had been a long-term problem. Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Ryan said yes. Councilmember Perry asked where residents would park for short term parking, and where delivery vehicles would park if the pull off lane were removed. He believes this is an enforcement issue. Mr. Miller said short-term meters could be added.

Mayor Brayman asked that the issues be bifurcated and requested that the fire lane issue at South Campus Commons be brought back at a future Worksession.

Mayor Brayman read into the record an e-mail that was received from Joanne Rudd, a resident of Graduate Gardens, in favor of the staff proposal for permit parking.

There being no additional public comment, the hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m. Mayor Brayman noted that no additional public comment would be taken on this issue at the Regular Meeting.