

City of Birmingham
Advisory Parking Committee
Regular Meeting

Birmingham City Hall Commission Room
151 Martin, Birmingham, Michigan
Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Minutes

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chair Vaitas.

1. Rollcall

Present: Chair Al Vaitas
Steven Kalczynski
Lisa Krueger
Judith Paskiewicz
Mary-Claire Petcoff
Lisa Silverman
Jennifer Yert

Absent: Vice-Chair Richard Astrein (in attendance via Zoom and therefore not voting)
Aaron Black
Sarshar Nasserian

Administration: Ryan Weingartz, Parking Manager
Nick Dupuis, City Planner
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist
Scott Grewe, Operations Commander
Greg Wald, Services Commander

SP+: Catherine Burch

2. Introductions

OC Grewe introduced SC Wald.

3. Review of the Agenda

4. Approval Of Minutes: Meetings Of December 1, 2021

Dr. Silverman asked that it be emphasized that she was concerned about Mr. Nasserian's attendance because she wanted to make sure that the resident perspective on the APC was adequately represented.

A number of APC members noted that they are also residents of Birmingham and assist in representing the resident perspective in addition to the perspectives they are appointed to represent.

Motion by Ms. Yert

Seconded by Dr. Paskiewicz to accept the minutes of December 1, 2021 as amended.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Yert, Paskiewicz, Silverman, Krueger, Petcoff, Vaitas, Kalczynski

Nays: None

5. Outdoor Dining - Townsend

At the outset of the item, PM Weingartz addressed Mr. Kalczynski and said he could stay and not comment since Mr. Kalczynski has an affiliation with the Townsend.

CT Eichenhorn clarified as to whether Mr. Kalczynski was recusing himself.

OC Grewe and Mr. Kalczynski answered affirmatively.

CT Eichenhorn stated that a recusing board member customarily states that they are recusing, states why, and steps out of the meeting for the discussion of the item.

Mr. Kalczynski stated he was recusing himself at 7:41 a.m., noting that he is the Manager/Director of the Townsend Hotel. He said that based on PM Weingartz's guidance he could sit and not speak, or could leave as well.

OC Grewe told Mr. Kalczynski that he could certainly stay as the representative for the Townsend. He said it would be no different than if he were the petitioner here for the Townsend supporting it. OC Grewe said any comments Mr. Kalczynski would make would not be as a board member but as a representative of the Townsend petitioning to get the outdoor dining deck. He said it might be better if Mr. Kalczynski sat in the audience so he did not appear to be part of the APC during discussion of the item.

Chair Vaitas said he also suggested that Mr. Kalczynski not sit with the APC during the discussion of the item.

PD Dupuis presented the item. He said he always forgets to include recommended motion language for the APC, but that he was looking for the APC to either recommend the deck proposal to the City Commission or not.

PD Dupuis and OC Grewe answered questions from the APC.

John Gardner, architect, and Mr. Kalczynski, Manager/Director of the Townsend, spoke on behalf of the request.

Motion by Dr. Silverman

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to recommend approval to the City Commission of the 100 Townsend – Townsend Hotel – Outdoor Dining Platform.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Silverman, Krueger, Petcoff, Vaitas, Kalczynski, Yert, Paskiewicz

Nays: None

6. Meeting Open to the Public for items not on the Agenda

Mr. Kalczynski rejoined the APC at 8:00 a.m.

There was some discussion about whether the Planning Board or the APC should review a dining deck request first. No consensus was reached.

Staff noted that both boards are advisory only, so both send their advice onto the City Commission and a negative finding by one board would not affect the findings of the other. Staff also noted that the public is notified of Planning Board hearings on dining deck requests.

Public Comment

Mr. Astrein spoke as a member of the public. He said one of the reasons for dining deck requests to come to the APC first was because in the past a non-bistro establishment was granted a dining deck in a parking spot, while his understanding was that platforms in parking spaces could only be granted to bistros.

Chair Vaitas concurred with Mr. Astrein.

Mr. Astrein said he was concerned that any dining establishment would be able to install a dining deck in a parking space. Regarding the Planning Board's current study of outdoor dining, Mr. Astrein recommended that a dining deck only be permitted to occupy a maximum of two parking spots.

Dr. Paskiewicz said the meters at Lot #6 had difficulty reading her credit card on three different days.

Staff stated that the City acts to remedy meter errors, reported by both the meters' technology and by users, on a daily basis.

In reply to Dr. Paskiewicz, PM Weingartz said he would review how often error messages regarding card insertion were being delivered to users to see if any meters are displaying that error repeatedly.

In reply to Mr. Kalczyński and Drs. Paskiewicz and Silverman, Staff said they would explore opening up a parking structure at no-cost during snow emergencies to provide off-street parking for residents.

Dr. Paskiewicz recommended it be posted to the City's website in the next few days due to the predicted inclement weather.

PM Weingartz said that if the City moved forward with the recommendation it could be shared on the City's website and social media.

7. Miscellaneous Communications
 - a. Parking System Update

PM Weingartz and Ms. Burch reviewed the item.

In reply to Dr. Silverman, Ms. Burch explained that the expenses went up after July 1, 2021 due to increased staffing, increased equipment costs, and increased credit card fees compared to when there was free parking in the decks due to Covid-19. She also confirmed that the line items would remain consistent moving forward.

8. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Parking Manager Ryan Weingartz



Laura Eichenhorn
City Transcriptionist