

City of Birmingham  
ADVISORY PARKING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING

Dept. of Public Services  
Conference room  
851 S. Eton Rd.  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

**MINUTES**

These are the minutes for the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") special meeting held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lex Kuhne at 7:09 p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Lex Kuhne  
Anne Honhart (arrived at 7:29 p.m.)  
Steven Kalczynski  
Lisa Krueger  
Judith Paskewicz  
Vice-Chairperson Susan Peabody (arrived at 7:29 p.m.)  
Al Vaitas

**Absent:** None

**SP+ Parking:** Josh Gunn  
Jason O'Dell

**Birmingham  
Shopping District:** Richard Astrein  
John Heiney

**Administration:** Kathryn Burrick, Sr. Accountant  
Mark Clemence, Deputy Police Chief  
Austin Fletcher, Engineering Dept.  
Scott Grewe, Police Dept.  
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer  
Mario Mendoza, Recording Secretary

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS** (none)

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2016

**Motion by Dr. Paskewicz  
Seconded by Ms. Krueger to approve the Minutes of the Regular APC  
Meeting of January 20, 2016 as presented.**

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

VOICE VOTE:

Yeas: Paskewicz, Krueger, Kalczynski, Kuhne, Vaitas

Nays: None

Absent: Honhart, Peabody

PUBLIC HEARING  
ACCESSIBLE PARKING POLICY IN CBD

The public hearing opened at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. O'Meara recalled the background for this topic was reviewed by the APC at their meeting of January 20, 2016. It was decided the public should be allowed a chance to comment before a decision is finalized. Notification has been sent to all those impacted in the Central Business District.

This involves changing the policy that has been in effect since the 1990s where vehicles displaying a valid disabled parking permit may park at any meter for as long as needed, without paying at the meter. Also, vehicles displaying a valid disabled parking permit may park at any yellow curbed zone as long as needed, as long as the vehicle is not disrupting the flow of traffic.

There have been issues of vehicles parking all day in the metered spaces. That is difficult for the business community because they need spaces turning over for their customers.

Federal ADA policy changes are coming. In order to prepare, staff is recommending a proactive approach by marking disabled parking spaces at the ratio of 1 to 25 on a block with the same hourly rate and time limit as other meters on the street. Disabled spaces would have a two-hour minimum. If there are less than 25 spaces on a block one space has to be added for the disabled.

Mr. O'Meara brought up a map and explained the ADA policy. It was noted that a block is comprised of the whole square. They will try to locate disabled spaces where ramps already exist, which is typically at the corner.

The chairman opened discussion to the public.

Ms. Kate Safford, who lives on Ravine Rd., was in favor of the proposed parking policy because cars parked in the yellow curbed zones present a visibility issue.

Mr. Barry Silver, who lives on Derby, thought cars that park in the yellow zones block the view for pedestrians and motorists as well. He read definitions of "handicapped," "disability," "handicapped parking," "handicapped person." He feels the ADA mandate essentially eliminates the City's common sense provision for accessibility. It does not address the fact of a physical limitation for which proximity is critical and it undermines the definition of handicapped accommodation. Mr. Silver added he has obtained a "free parking" sticker from the State. It was discussed that sticker would override any charges by the City.

Chairman Kuhne observed there is nothing that will keep mobility challenged people from using regular parking meters. They will just have to pay for them. In addition there will be extra spots specifically available for the disabled. He personally thinks that adding more spaces dedicated to people with mobility issues is an improvement. The APC will come up with a recommendation and send it up to the City Commission for their final decision.

Ms. Margaret Moran, whose residence is on Oakland, did not think the ADA mandate will help anyone.

Ms. Jane Ruth, who lives in Beverly Hills, said she was temporarily disabled last summer and it was almost impossible for her to get around downtown Birmingham. There were things she wanted to do but could not.

Dr. Paskewicz acknowledged the City needs to follow the ADA requirements but perhaps they can do some creative thinking about how to deal with the issues of time limit and place.

Further discussion disclosed that Birmingham is the only community in the area that allows free parking for disabled persons, and now they will be falling into step with other communities.

Mr. O'Meara estimated that implementation of the Accessible Parking Policy would take less than three weeks, once the work gets started.

**Motion by Dr. Vaitas**

**Seconded by Ms. Honhart to recommend to the City Commission that staff be directed to move forward with the new Disabled Parking Policy for the Central Business District, wherein marked, reserved spaces for the disabled shall be installed throughout the district, at the rate of one space for up to 25 per block, in accordance with upcoming changes within the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").**

**Each space shall use standard blue signs, pavement markings, blue parking meter housings and post, with meters matching the adjacent meters' time limits, but never less than two hours. In addition, Parkmobile customers parked at disabled parking meters will be able to renew their time remotely one time over and above the posted time limit.**

Mr. Silver received clarification that the Michigan free parking sticker is not a Birmingham issue.

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

VOICE VOTE:

Yeas: Honhart, Peabody, Kalczynski, Krueger, Kuhne, Paskewicz, Vaitas

Nays: None

Absent: None

The public hearing closed at 8:12 p.m.

#### HAMILTON AVE. VALET SERVICE

Mr. O'Meara announced that a valet service will be started soon at the corner of N. Old Woodward Ave. and Hamilton Ave.

Mr. Heiney described the program that is similar to something they have been doing in the spring and during the holiday season. What is different this year is they are doing it in support of the businesses, particularly on Hamilton Ave. Major road renovation is scheduled to start there within weeks from Old Woodward Ave. to Woodward Ave. The Birmingham Shopping District ("BSD") wants to make it as easy as possible for customers to get to Hamilton Ave. during construction.

The difference from what was done over the holidays and in the past is that they are offering this service for free for two hours. If people are there for longer than two hours they can get a validation from the business they are in and the service continues to be free. It will be in effect Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The car drop-off will be in front of Comerica Bank. The system is all ready to go and it will be well marked and well signed so people will see the drop-off point.

Mr. Heiney indicated he has told the businesses if there is really a concern and a need for this on-going, they might have to come back to the City with a plan to either extend it or do something similar, and the businesses would have to help finance it. Many of them have indicated their interest.

### 2014/15 FISCAL YEAR REVIEW

Ms. Burrick said every year she does an annual review and this is for the Fiscal Year from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. She summarized that overall the Automobile Parking System Fund's net income increased by \$36,956, or 2.5%, from the prior fiscal year. The change is the result of an increase in operating revenue of \$414,729, or 9.6%, offset by an increase in operating expense of \$368,103, or 12.8%, and a decrease of \$9,669 in non-operating revenue.

The projected cash flow assumes the following factors: Cash received from customers remains constant at the 2016-2017 level assuming potential rate changes will occur in 2016-2017, operating expense is projected to increase between 2% to 3% per year, medical insurance is estimated to increase 5% to 7% per year, and capital outlay figures use current projections through 2017-2018 and are estimated thereafter at \$1,200,000 for various parking structure equipment replacement and annual maintenance requirements. These factors show projected cash flows to increase in subsequent years.

### PARKING SYSTEM RATE CHANGE PROPOSAL (not discussed)

### AD HOC RAIL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Krueger has volunteered for this position.

### AD HOC PARKING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. O'Meara reported that the consulting work done by Victor Saroki & Associates is now finished. The committee is now gathering data to start figuring out how to pay for this project. That will be discussed in late April. In addition they are doing things to try and figure out other ways to create more parking places without actually constructing buildings.

Chairman Kuhne explained the condos immediately to the north of the N. Old Woodward Ave. Structure will be redeveloped into a mixed-use building. Part of the development is to replace the N. Old Woodward Structure and expand parking. The cyclone fence will be taken down from the surface lot so the Rouge River can be seen. Dr. Paskewicz is a member of the ad hoc committee trying to figure out how that will be balanced out.

Mr. O'Meara noted that over 600 new parking spaces are needed district-wide. Most of that need is on the south side. The Committee will review how to pay for this proposed project, and if it is the right direction to go.

Dr. Paskewicz stated she would like to see the first floor of the parking structure with a ceiling high enough and pleasant enough so that it can be used for other purposes, such as a winter venue for the Farmers Market.

#### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. O'Meara advised that in the budget the N. Old Woodward Parking Structure was next for renovation and that has been cancelled because of discussions about potentially demolishing it. This is a good opportunity to paint the Park St. Parking Structure which has not been done in 16 years.

The elevator at the Peabody Parking Structure has been delayed because the contractor is running into manufacturing problems.

#### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was noted that business is good.

#### MEETING OPEN FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Honhart related that when she was trying to park in the Peabody Structure there were large vehicles taking up two spots. Mr. O'Dell replied they have been utilizing the Police Dept. a lot lately to enforce parking in the structures by writing tickets. He asked to be informed if these violations are noticed.

#### NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

April 20, 2016

#### ADJOURNMENT

No further business being evident, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul O'Meara  
City Engineer