

City of Birmingham  
ADVISORY PARKING COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access  
Wednesday, November 4, 2020

**MINUTES**

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chairman Al Vaitas.

1. Rollcall

**Present:** Chairman Al Vaitas  
Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne  
Richard Astrein  
Steven Kalczynski  
Judith Paskiewicz  
Lisa Silverman  
Jennifer Yert

**Absent:** Anne Honhart  
Lisa Krueger

**SP+ Parking:** Catherine Burch  
Sarah Burton  
Jay O'Dell

**Administration:** Scott Grewe, Patrol Commander  
Mike Albrecht, Police Commander  
Eric Brunk, IT Director  
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist

2. Recognition Of Guests

None.

3. Review of the Agenda

No changes.

4. Approval Of Minutes: Meeting Of October 7, 2020

Chairman Vaitas noted that 'Chairwoman' on the first page of the minutes should be amended to read 'Chairman'.

Dr. Silverman noted she was absent from the October 7, 2020 meeting and asked that the minutes be updated to reflect her absence.

**Motion by Mr. Astrein**

**Seconded by Ms. Champagne to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of October 7, 2020 as amended.**

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Yeas: Astrein, Vaitas, Champagne, Kalczynski, Yert, Paskiewicz**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain: Silverman**

5. Parking Meter Update

Pol. Cmdr. Albrecht provided the update.

In reply to Committee inquiries, Pol. Cmdr. Albrecht said:

- Maple Road should be reopening soon. He had not yet received a precise date from the Engineering Department.
- The display on the new meters is bigger and so should be easier to read than the previous meters.
- The new meters are operating more quickly than the previous meters due to new SIM cards with more network coverage.

6. ADA Compliance Review

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe reviewed the item.

The Committee commended the Ptrl. Cmdr. for the quality of the review.

In reply to Dr. Paskiewicz, Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe stated that the City does not ticket vehicles that back into ADA spots since different vehicles have different ADA entrance and exit needs.

**Motion by Mr. Astrein**

**Seconded by Ms. Yert to move the 6 non-compliant ADA parking spaces in the open lot of the N. Old Woodward structure to the first level of the structure along the east wall, and to paint all non-ADA parking stalls in all City parking structures white.**

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Yeas: Astrein, Yert, Champagne, Paskiewicz, Kalczynski, Vaitas, Silverman**

**Nays: None**

7. Reduced Rate Parking

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe reviewed the item. He stated that BSD Director Ingrid Tighe recommended continuing the reduced rate parking in order to: support businesses during the holiday season, support businesses during the traditionally slow retail months of January, February, and March, and support businesses in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Astrein and Chairman Vaitas recommended free parking in the structures be continued through March 31, 2021. Both noted that small business owners usually pay for their employees' parking passes, and that with revenue down it would be tremendously helpful to not have to pay those fees for a bit longer. They also concurred with BSD Director Tighe's list of reasons for recommending that parking in the decks remain free until the end of March 2021.

There was limited discussion of possibly reducing some charges for parking in the decks while not eliminating all of the charges.

Mr. Astrein stressed what a detrimental impact Covid-19 is having on the retail environment, and said charging no fees through the end of March 2021 was the only prudent decision.

SP+ reported that about 220 parking passes had been recently relinquished, largely by corporate pass holders. He said SP+ was now working through the list of individual pass holders to see if they wanted to retain their passes.

SP+ reported the decks have had an average occupancy of 30%, with Pierce showing a bit more at 50%.

Ms. Champagne said the impact on the City would likely be relatively little if charges for the parking decks remained suspended until March 31, 2021. She said that if that would help support the City's businesses, it would be the right option.

SP+ asked whether people coming off the parking permit waiting list should be charged the \$100 fee to hold the permits.

There was APC consensus that it would be appropriate to charge the new passholders the one-time \$100 fee in order to ensure their interest in retaining the passes.

**Motion by Mr. Astrein**

**Seconded by Ms. Champagne to recommend to the City Commission that free parking in the structures remain in effect beginning January 1, 2021 and continue through March 31, 2020.**

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Yeas: Astrein, Champagne, Paskiewicz, Kalczyński, Yert, Vaitas, Silverman**

**Nays: None**

8. Master Plan Review

Chairman Vaitas said most master plan matters concerning the APC had been discussed at previous APC meetings. He noted the only topic left to potentially discuss had been some concerns on the part of one APC member regarding residential parking issues.

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe advised the APC that the topic of residential parking is outside the scope of the APC as a committee. He stated that if individual APC members had concerns about residential parking in the master plan they should submit those comments as members of the public to the master planning team or to Planning Director Ecker. He stated that both the master planning team and the Planning Department are still actively soliciting feedback from the public regarding all aspects of the master plan.

Drs. Silverman and Paskiewicz suggested that the 'Committee comments' listed in former Assistant City Manager Gunter's June 3, 2020 memo were a compilation of ideas, questions and concerns from individual Committee members. They opined that the list should not be taken as a set of formal recommendations agreed on by the Committee as a whole.

Chairman Vaitas said he recalled the APC discussing and agreeing, at least informally, on the comments listed in the June 3, 2020 memo.

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

Given some uncertainty on the part of some APC members, Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe said he could put together a review of Open Meetings Act requirements for a future meeting. In particular, there was debate as to whether the OMA prohibits:

- Informal conversations between individual APC members whose numbers do not reach quorum; or,
- Informal conversations between an individual APC member and an individual member of another board or Commission.

In reply to Dr. Paskiewicz, Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe stated that whenever the Commission reviews an item that was previously reviewed by the APC the Commission is provided with a memo that summarizes the APC's recommendation and is also provided with the minutes of the relevant APC discussion.

There was APC consensus that a joint meeting between the APC and Commission would be beneficial. Members of the APC said they wanted clarity regarding the Commission's priorities for the APC. One of the questions the APC would like clarity on is whether the APC's focus should be more on increasing and stewarding the balance of the Parking Fund or to providing parking downtown as a service.

Dr. Paskiewicz expressed concern that parking items sometimes go before the City Commission without having been reviewed by the APC. She stated the design of the potential parking management study was an example of an item the APC should have been asked to provide feedback on.

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe stated he would take the request for a joint meeting to the City Manager.

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe and the APC acknowledged Ms. Champagne's resignation of her position on the Committee. They thanked Ms. Champagne for her service.

Ptrl. Cmdr. Grewe noted that with Ms. Champagne's resignation there are now three vacancies on the APC. He encouraged the Committee members to reach out to other members of the community who may be interested in joining.

10. Miscellaneous Communications
11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020
12. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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Patrol Commander Scott Grewe

APPROVED