

City of Birmingham
ADVISORY PARKING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Birmingham City Hall Commission Room
151 Martin, Birmingham, Michigan
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

MINUTES

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne.

1. ROLLCALL

Present: Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne
Richard Astrein
Steven Kalczynski
Lisa Krueger
Judith Paskiewicz (arrived 7:35 a.m.)
Lisa Silverman
Jennifer Yert

Absent: Chairman Al Vaitas
Anne Honhart
Michael Horowitz

SP+ Parking: Jay O'Dell
Sarah Burton

In House Valet: Steve Ferich

Administration: Tiffany Gunter, Asst. City Manager
Michael Albrecht, Police Commander
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist

2. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (none)

3. MINUTES OF REGULAR APC MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Motion by Ms. Yert

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of November 6, 2019 as submitted.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Yert, Krueger, Champagne, Silverman, Astrein, Kalczynski

Nays: None

Motion carried, 6-0.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

a. STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

ACM Gunter presented the item.

b. PARKING APPLICATION

ACM Gunter explained that the mobile application had the on-street feed but had not yet been set up with the off-street feed. She said once that was complete the application could go into beta testing.

Mr. O'Dell of SP+ reviewed the application's planned features.

c. EVENING METERS LIMITS – 4 HOURS

Police Commander Albrecht said the City is waiting for the parking meter programming to be updated in order to allow for four hour parking in the evening. He explained that once the programming is set, it will be unrolled to a test group of 20 parking meters first and then to a group of 120 parking meters after that. The 120 meters will be located along Old Woodward from Willits to Brown.

d. MONTHLY PERMIT SALES

Ms. Burton presented the item.

e. ROOF TOP VALET REFINEMENT

ACM Gunter presented the item.

5. LOT 6 VALET DEMONSTRATION PERIOD RESULTS

ACM Gunter introduced the item. She stated that one of the merchants in the area contacted Chairman Vaitas to let him know that said merchant would be comfortable only having the valet in operation during the holidays, and that there was no need to operate it year-round. ACM Gunter also confirmed that the City keeps an eye on parking congestion in the area and could institute more valet in the area in the future if circumstances change.

Mr. Ferich reviewed the item.

ACM Gunter stated this item was not an action item as was indicated in the agenda, and that this topic required no action from the APC at this time.

6. FUTURE PARKING DEMAND STRATEGY – DISCUSSION

- a. ALTERNATIVES MATRIX
- b. PARKING DEMAND AND PERMIT SALES
- c. PARKING MITIGATION PLAN
- d. METERED PARKING: EVENING LIMITS

ACM Gunter presented the item.

Mr. Kalczynski commented that the dynamics of parking in the City will be shifting dramatically in the City over the course of the next two years. He cited a new hotel being built in the City and the residential and retail being built on N. Old Woodward. He opined that the APC could try to devise a parking strategy now, but that the City would be seeing such impactful changes in parking demand over the next two years that the strategy may not address future parking necessities.

ACM Gunter explained that the strategy the City develops now would include a range of options for various possible parking scenarios the City could see over the next few years. She noted, for example, that the City cannot yet convince people coming into town to park elsewhere and take a bus into Birmingham because there is still parking available in the City. She said that once that saturation point is reached, however, one of the options the APC could consider is the combination of busing and offsite lots.

Ms. Krueger asked if the City is looking into how to maximize space in the surface lots.

ACM Gunter said she would speak with the DPS Director to see if snow could be plowed and stored somewhere outside of the surface lots in order to retain the maximum number of parking spaces possible in the winter months.

Dr. Paskiewicz and Dr. Silverman asked whether ensuring commuter access to monthly parking should be considered the most important goal of the APC.

ACM Gunter noted that commuters are the largest group using the Birmingham parking system. She explained that other parking stakeholders, like residents or customers, will only have their parking needs managed effectively if the commuter demand on the parking system is managed effectively. Once commuter demand is well managed, issues of other stakeholders' demands on the parking system will be less difficult. Parking rules implemented towards that end include prohibiting long-term parking on the first floor of garages, and prohibiting long term parking in front of certain businesses during the day.

Given this answer, Dr. Silverman suggested that it would be worth considering if 'ensuring commuter access' could be reframed more as addressing the management of commuter parking demand.

Ms. Krueger noted that commuters are also shoppers and diners, and that their contribution to the economic vitality of the downtown should not be underplayed.

In response to Mr. Kalczynski, Mr. O'Dell estimated that about 70% of the monthly permit passes are used by holders to park in the City on an average day.

ACM Gunter continued that everyone should have fair, accessible, and safe parking in downtown Birmingham, and to that end the City would be working with the APC on a survey that will clarify Birmingham parking needs. The APC will be provided a preliminary version of the survey in advance of their February 5, 2020 meeting, and will be able to provide feedback on it during their February 5, 2020 meeting.

7. PARKING UTILIZATION REPORT AND FINANCIALS

Included in agenda.

8. MEETING OPEN FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

On occasion community members broach APC-related concerns with APC individual members outside of meeting times. While APC members are allowed to voice their private opinions regarding such matters as long as they do not presume to represent the APC, sometimes it is necessary for the APC to address the concern as a whole.

To address these concerns without violating the Michigan Open Meetings Act (O.M.A.) the APC concurred it would be best to have Chairman Vaitas invite the concerned community member via email to the next APC meeting for a discussion of the matter. Chairman Vaitas would also copy all APC members on that email to be sure they were aware of the upcoming discussion.

ACM Gunter said she would verify the number of APC members that could meet as part of a subcommittee without violating the O.M.A. She also advised APC members that she would be happy to field any parking-related informational questions or concerns from community members. If the issue is more complicated, Chairman Vaitas should invite the community member to an APC meeting for a discussion.

9. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 5, 2020

10. ADJOURNMENT

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Assistant City Manager Tiffany Gunter