

City of Birmingham
ADVISORY PARKING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Birmingham City Hall Commission Room
151 Martin, Birmingham, Michigan
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

MINUTES

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Al Vaitas.

1. Rollcall

Present: Chairman Al Vaitas
Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne
Richard Astrein (left at 8:30 a.m.)
Steven Kalczynski (left at 8:57 a.m.)
Lisa Krueger
Judith Paskiewicz
Jennifer Yert

Absent: Anne Honhart
Michael Horowitz
Lisa Silverman

SP+ Parking: Catherine Burch
Jay O'Dell

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 January 8, 2020

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Champagne to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of January 8, 2020 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

4. Project Updates

A. Structural Assessment Program

ACM Gunter presented the item.

B. Parking Application

Mr. O'Dell presented the item. He explained:

- The beta version of the mobile parking application has been linked to the on-street parking, and will be linked to the garages soon. After that, all members of the APC will be given access to the beta version in order to provide feedback to SP+.
- It will be available on Android and Apple devices.
- An email would likely be sent out to the APC by February 12, 2020 with an update on where the app stands.

C. Evening Meters Limits – 4 Hours

Police Commander Albrecht presented the item. He explained there were issues with the programming which allowed for credit card payment but eliminated change payment. He said the City is working on remedying the issue and pushing the correct programming out to the test meters.

D. Monthly Permit Sales

ACM Gunter presented the item.

5. N. Old Woodward Deck – Façade Removal Project Update

ACM Gunter presented the item.

In reply to Vice-Chairwoman Champagne, ACM Gunter said the City would look at different alternatives should permit holders be anxious about parking in the N. Old Woodward deck while construction is going on.

6. Downtown Parking Survey - Draft

ACM Gunter presented the item. She also noted that Ms. Silverman provided comments regarding the survey via an email sent to ACM Gunter.

Dr. Paskiewicz expressed concerns that the survey questions may be too broad, and about getting a representative sample of responses to the survey.

ACM Gunter explained the various methods the City would be using to get the survey out to as broad a population as possible.

Ms. Krueger said the survey answers could be used to determine the highest priorities for people, and that subsequent surveys could be targeted at specific populations to gain information on more specific questions.

Ms. Yert said it was a good time to release the survey since parking has been on people's minds since the N. Old Woodward/Bates Street plan discussion of Summer 2019. She said she suspected the City would receive a lot of responses, and that it would help the City decide where to focus its attention and resources in terms of parking needs.

Ms. Champagne stated that the first page of the survey should explain that it is part of an ongoing process of meeting parking needs in the City.

Dr. Paskiewicz expressed further concern that survey design is more complex than is being allowed for in this conversation.

Mr. Kalczynski agreed with Dr. Paskiewicz and said he thought it would be worthwhile for the City to hire a consultant to design the survey.

Ms. Krueger reiterated that using this survey as the first of a series will help the APC and the City determine where to focus their efforts, and that the subsequent surveys can be used to get more specificity in those considerations.

ACM Gunter suggested that trying to determine specific survey questions at this juncture would not be the best use of APC time. She said the City could consider re-engaging Nelson Nygaard, the City's previous parking consultants, on the survey process should the APC want to go in that direction.

Ms. Krueger said the proposed questions could use a bit more specificity which could be provided in parentheses, and that the survey would be a good jumping off point for discussion after those minor refinements.

Chairman Vaitas said that he understood Dr. Paskiewicz's concerns but that he also thought keeping the survey short would yield more broad and useful engagement.

ACM Gunter said the intent would be to release this survey and then release subsequent more specific surveys based off the initial survey's findings, as per Ms. Krueger's recommendation. She said that the City could then possibly engage Nelson Nygaard when it comes time to develop the subsequent surveys.

Ultimately, the committee agreed to release the general survey intended for all users and not include the questions that were targeted to specific types of users.

7. Future Parking Demand Strategy – Discussion

ACM Gunter presented the item. She explained she is working with SP+ to determine the feasibility of having a trial of small-scale in-town transportation from slightly further away

parking locations to see how it is received. She also told the Board that the City Commission had started new discussions of the Bates Street project in order to consider site redevelopment alternatives.

Ms. Champagne said that if the City let people know how many average steps exist between different locations, people might be more apt to walk since there is a current exercise trend of trying to walk a certain number of steps in a day in order to maintain or increase fitness.

ACM Gunter said she would look into that possibility, saying it was a fun idea.

8. Parking Utilization Report And Financials

Included in agenda.

9. Meeting Open For Matters Not On The Agenda

In reply to Dr. Paskiewicz, ACM Gunter and Mr. O'Dell said they would review signage and publicity options for rooftop valet in order to ensure that pertinent information is available to prospective users of the valet.

ACM Gunter told the APC the MMTB would be meeting to discuss bicycle parking options in the City garages, and that the City is working with the parking meter company to ensure that if there is a hardware update that the technology will have some longevity.

10. Next Meeting: March 4, 2020

11. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Assistant City Manager Tiffany Gunter