

City of Birmingham
Advisory Parking Committee
Regular Meeting

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Minutes

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chair Al Vaitas.

1. Rollcall

Present: Chair Al Vaitas
Vice-Chair Richard Astrein
Steven Kalczynski
Lisa Krueger
Mary-Claire Petcoff
Lisa Silverman (arrived 7:40 a.m.)

(all members were located in Birmingham, MI except Mr. Astrein, who was located in Huntington Woods, MI, and Chair Vaitas, who was in Bloomfield Hills, MI.)

Absent: Aaron Black
Anne Honhart
Judith Paskiewicz
Jennifer Yert

SP+ Parking: Catherine Burch
Sarah Burton
Chris Tretter

ParkMobile: Abby Minyono

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

2. Introductions

None.

3. Review of the Agenda

Cmdr. Grewe recommended that the ParkMobile update be moved from the beginning of the agenda to the end since Abby Minyono of ParkMobile had not yet joined the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to move the ParkMobile update from the beginning of the meeting agenda to the end.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Krueger, Vaitas, Kalczynski, Petcoff

Nays: None

4. Approval Of Minutes: Meeting Of March 3, 2021

Chair Vaitas noted that on the first page '2020' should be changed to '2021'. He also recommended that Mr. Astrein's position as Vice-Chair be recorded as part of roll call.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of March 3, 2021 as amended.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Krueger, Vaitas, Kalczynski, Petcoff

Nays: None

5. Parking Structure Internet Upgrade

IT Manager Brunk presented the item. He explained he only sought a bid from Crown Castle since it already provides internet to other municipal properties in the City, including City Hall.

In response to a question from Mr. Kalczynski, IT Manager Brunk said the City's guidelines for RFPs require multiple bids unless the City can demonstrate a reason for a sole source. Since Crown Castle already has fiber running past most of the structures in the City, the cost of Crown Castle performing the internet upgrades would likely be substantially lower than any other provider could offer. He said that was the reason for the single bid.

Ms. Krueger said she saw the benefit of having the same internet service provider for multiple municipal locations.

A number of APC members said they would prefer to review more than one quote to maintain civic trust in the vendor selection process.

IT Manager Brunk said he would return to the APC with other bids for the project.

Motion by Mr. Kalczynski

Seconded by Mr. Astrein to continue pursuing internet connection upgrades at all five (5) of the parking structures and to review additional bids for the project.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Kalczynski, Astrein, Krueger, Vaitas, Petcoff, Silverman

Nays: None

6. Amenity Bays / Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Ms. Burton presented the recommendations from SP+ regarding amenity bays in the parking structures.

Given the past year's decrease in revenue for the parking fund due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was consensus among the APC members that now was not the appropriate time to recommend the capital outlay required to do a pilot run of an amenity bay in the parking structures.

Concerns were also raised about removing two spaces to install an amenity bay given the historic demand on the City's parking system.

Two APC members reported asking other Birmingham residents about their potential interest in amenity bays in the parking structures. Those APC members said none of the residents they asked expressed interest.

Other APC members commented that people visiting Birmingham to shop, dine or work would be unlikely to want to use the amenity bays, and that many residents and visitors to Birmingham would be more likely to use the same services offered by the amenity bays elsewhere.

Motion by Mr. Kalczynski

Seconded by Dr. Silverman to re-evaluate the SP+ proposal regarding amenity bays in one (1) year.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Kalczynski, Silverman, Astrein, Krueger, Vaitas, Petcoff

Nays: None

Ms. Burch presented the recommendations from SP+ regarding electric vehicle charging stations in the parking structures.

The APC members agreed that the City would likely need to install EV charging stations in the future and that further study of the options would be appropriate.

Mr. Kalczynski stated that the Townsend Hotel received EV charging stations from Tesla at a discounted rate as an incentive to install their specific charging stations. He said the charging stations are used 'all the time'. He recommended that the City look into options for other possible incentives from companies for EV charging stations.

Dr. Silverman noted that the EV charging technology is likely to change quickly, and that the City should invest conservatively in EV charging stations initially in order to avoid ending up with an excess of out-of-date equipment. She also said any expenditure should wait until the parking fund has started bringing in revenue again.

Chair Vaitas said that the City should make sure to pursue any federal funds that may be available for installing EV charging stations.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Mr. Kalczynski to direct staff and SP+ to conduct more research regarding EV charging station options and to return to the APC with their findings.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Kalczynski, Silverman, Krueger, Vaitas, Petcoff

Nays: None

7. ParkMobile Update

Cmdr. Grewe introduced the item. Ms. Minyono provided a brief overview of updated ParkMobile features.

Chair Vaitas thanked Ms. Minyono for the presentation.

8. Parking Manager Recruitment

Cmdr. Grewe presented the item.

Per a comment from Chair Vaitas, Cmdr. Grewe confirmed that 'chair' in the ninth bullet point on page two would be changed to another verb since elected APC members chair the meeting.

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

Mr. Astrein asked that APC members' aggregated meeting attendance records be included in future agenda packets. He explained that the records should be updated every month to reflect the most recent meeting's attendance.

Cmdr. Grewe said he would do that.

Cmdr. Albrecht said he would return to the APC with the different charges paid by the City for credit card processing fees.

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10. Miscellaneous Communications
11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021
12. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Patrol Commander Scott Grewe

APPROVED