

City of Birmingham
Advisory Parking Committee
Regular Meeting

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access
Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Minutes

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, May 5, 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
Aaron Black (arrived 7:45 a.m.)
Judith Paskiewicz
Mary-Claire Petcoff
Lisa Silverman
Jennifer Yert (left 8:00 a.m.)

(all members were located in Birmingham, MI except Mr. Astrein, who was located in Huntington Woods, MI, Mary-Clare Petcoff, who was in Hilton Head, SC, and Chair Vaitas, who was in Bloomfield Hills, MI.)

Absent: Steven Kalczynski
Lisa Krueger
Anne Honhart

SP+ Parking: Catherine Burch
Sarah Burton

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

4. Approval Of Minutes: Meeting Of April 7, 2021

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Dr. Silverman to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of April 7, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 4-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Silverman, Vaitas, Petcoff

Nays: None

Abstain: Yert, Paskiewicz

5. Parking Structure Internet Upgrade

IT Manager Brunk reviewed the item.

Dr. Silverman noted that by her calculations the City has only experienced internet outages 1.6% of the time, which she said was not necessarily a significant enough figure to merit switching providers.

IT Manager Brunk said internet downtime causes frustration for Staff and lost revenue on the days it is down. He said the proposed technology upgrades in the parking structures also require more reliable internet connection.

Dr. Silverman asked if now was the appropriate time to be making this investment after about a year of lost revenue for the parking fund due to Covid-19.

IT Manager Brunk said he and Ops. Cmdr. Grewe determined that completing the internet installation before July 1, 2021, when the City will begin charging again, will present the internet upgrades from causing any inconvenience to the parking users.

Dr. Silverman asked if this fiber upgrade could eventually be used to broaden internet access to Birmingham residents in the future.

IT Manager Brunk said that while Crown Castle tends to work more with businesses, it could potentially install wireless access points throughout the City if the City chose to pursue that.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Yert to recommend upgrading the internet connections at all (5) parking garages to the Managed Fiber Ethernet from Crown Castle for a 36-month term.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Yert, Black, Silverman, Vaitas, Petcoff, Paskiewicz

Nays: None

6. Credit Card Processing Fees

Cmdr. Albrecht reviewed the item.

Both Mr. Astrein and Dr. Silverman recommended that the City look into whether other vendors might have lower credit card processing fees for the on-street parking meters. They noted that many of the charges are negotiable in general.

Cmdr. Albrecht said that when the Parking Manager joins the City they might pursue finding the same credit card processor for the structures and the on-street meters. He said that at that point the Parking Manager might also look into whether reduced processing fees might be available.

Cmdr. Grewe noted that while some credit card processing fees might be negotiable in general, these contracts coming in through the RFP process might limit the City's ability to negotiate somewhat. He noted that finding a credit card processor for the City is contingent on the rates offered during the RFP process. Ops. Cmdr. Grewe concurred with Cmdr. Albrecht however that the new Parking Manager could look into potentially reduced processing fees in the future.

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

Ops. Cmdr. Grewe informed the APC that the Commission would be receiving a legal overview of how the Parking Assessment District works at their May 10, 2021 meeting.

A number of APC members said they would try and attend the Commission workshop.

Mr. Astrein said it would be worthwhile for the City to consider increasing the cost for repeated on-street parking violations. He said that it seemed that the current costs may not be acting as an effective-enough deterrent.

8. Miscellaneous Communications

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

10. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Patrol Commander Scott Grewe