

City of Birmingham
Advisory Parking Committee
Regular Meeting

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access
Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Minutes

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, August 4, 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
Lisa Krueger
Lisa Silverman
Mary-Claire Petcoff
Jennifer Yert

Absent: Anne Honhart
Steven Kalczynski
Judith Paskiewicz

Administration: Scott Grewe, Patrol Commander
Mike Albrecht, Police Commander
Nick Dupuis, City Planner
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

SP+: Catherine Burch

WJE: Justin Barden
Matthew Lewis

2. Introductions

CP Dupuis, Mr. Barden, and Mr. Lewis were introduced to the APC by PC Grewe.

3. Review of the Agenda

4. Approval Of Minutes: Meeting Of June 16, 2021

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to approve the minutes of the regular APC meeting of June 16, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Black, Krueger, Vaitas, Petcoff, Yert

Nays: None

Abstain: Silverman

5. Invitation to Bid Review – N. Old Woodward Structure

PC Grewe introduced the item.

Messrs. Barden and Lewis presented the item.

In reply to APC inquiry, PC Grewe said whether the bids come before the APC for review would be a question of timing. He noted the City is trying to expedite the project.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to proceed with the invitation to bid for the N. Old Woodward Structure.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

6. Invitation to Bid Review – Park, Peabody and Chester Structures

PC Grewe introduced the item. He noted that this part of the parking structure repairs was being separated from the N. Old Woodward aspect since getting bids from more than one contractor might allow the City to complete the entire project faster.

Messrs. Barden and Lewis presented the item.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Krueger to proceed with the invitation to bid for the Park, Peabody and Chester Structures.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

7. 135 Pierce, Design Review – Outdoor Dining

CP Dupuis presented the item.

Concerns raised by APC members included the parking space between Planthropie's proposed deck and Toast's current deck; the lack of guidelines for determining whether a dining deck in a parking spot would be appropriate; the density of extant dining decks on Pierce; and, allowing a dining deck for a restaurant with limited hours.

CP Dupuis noted that there is extra space adjacent to the parking space between Toast and Planthropie which might make it easier to park; that the Planning Board is currently performing a study to revise the outdoor dining guidelines which should be ready in four to six months; and, that the applicant has extended their hours from the original hours of operation. He encouraged APC members to engage with the Planning Board on the ongoing outdoor dining study. He said the APC could also be given the opportunity to comment on and review the outdoor dining standard recommendations from the Planning Board.

In reply to APC inquiry, CP Dupuis said the sidewalk space was likely too limited and uneven for successful outdoor dining. He also explained that the empty parking space and Planthropie's proposed deck could not have their locations switched because the dining deck has to be adjacent to the business.

Co-owner of Planthropie, Mark Devito, was present on behalf of the request. He stated that it is not Planthropie's intention to pursue outdoor dining in the off-season. He confirmed that the restaurant's hours of operation had been extended beyond 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The APC said they would like to participate in the annual outdoor dining re-licensure process in order to give non-restaurant business owners the opportunity to comment on how dining decks are impacting their businesses.

CP Dupuis noted that activation of the street tends to benefit all retailers on the street.

Mr. Astrein said dining decks benefit restaurants more than they do non-restaurant retailers.

The APC expressed consternation that some parking-related items are brought before them for review and some are not. There was consensus that they should be more consistently reviewing parking-related matters.

Motion by Ms. Krueger

Seconded by Ms. Petcoff to approve the deck for Planthropie at 135 Pierce as long as the hours of operation are extended beyond 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Motion carried, 5-2.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Krueger, Petcoff, Astrein, Silverman, Black

Nays: Yert, Vaitas

Chair Vaitas voted no due to the lack of standardized guidelines with which to evaluate the request.

Ms. Yert voted no because she was skeptical that the parking space between Planthropie and Toast would be utilized for parking.

8. 115 Willits, Design Review – Outdoor Dining

CP Dupuis presented the item. In reply to APC inquiry, he confirmed that the application had been reviewed and approved by the Commission.

The APC once again expressed consternation that they had not had the opportunity to review the proposal before the decision was made.

PC Grewe advised the APC that they should consider this presentation more informational in nature.

Chair Vaitas said he still wanted to have a vote for the record.

Motion by Ms. Yert

Seconded by Mr. Black to approve the deck for Mare at 115 Willits.

Motion carried, 5-2.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Yert, Silverman, Black, Krueger, Petcoff

Nays: Vaitas, Astrein

Mr. Astrein reiterated his feeling that the dining decks create unfair benefit for restaurants versus non-restaurant retailers. While acknowledging that street activation benefits retailers, he noted that most of the activation stemming from the dining decks occurs in the evenings while non-restaurant retailers tend to have regular business hours so non-restaurant retailers gain less benefit.

9. Parking Structure Exterior Signage Review

Ms. Burch and PC Grewe reviewed the item.

The APC consensus was to commence repairs on existing signage as appropriate, and to consider updated designs for the parking deck signs and wayfinding in the longer term.

PC Grewe said he would return to the APC with quotes for upgrading the design aspects and quotes for the electric repairs for the extant signage.

10. Miscellaneous Communications

a. Semcog Information – EV Charging Stations

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11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021

12. Adjournment

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

Patrol Commander Scott Grewe

APPROVED