

Duluth Parking Commission
Forty-Eighth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, November 4, 2016
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine
- Steve LaFlamme
- Andy McDonald, President
- Chad Smith
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor

Members Absent

- Howie Hanson, Vice President

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Matthew Kennedy, former Parking Manager – City of Duluth

Approval of 9/2/16 minutes

Commissioner Jessica Sterle motioned to approve the 9/2/16 parking commission meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Steve LaFlamme had not yet arrived).

Proposal to convert one single-space meter on 2nd Avenue East to a ten-minute drop-off zone

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer described a proposal to convert one single-space meter on 2nd Avenue East to a ten-minute drop-off zone. Mr. Bauer stated that the request was generated by the new Blind Pig restaurant, which had recently replaced Tycoon's Alehouse. He stated that the purpose of the zone would be to provide a short-term parking option for restaurant take-out order guests, as well as others with similar needs in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that an in-person survey of area stakeholders had been completed and that no opposition to the proposed change had been noted. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street, near the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated that the proposal was designed to address two concerns, one related to safety for pedestrians and drivers crossing 9th Avenue East and the other to provide enough room for Duluth Transit Authority busses to access the bus stop in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that he had fielded concerns from pedestrians that the sightlines at the intersection should be extended for safety and that the DTA had specified a 60-foot minimum distance to accommodate their busses at the bus stop, which currently featured only about a ten-foot setback. Mr. Bauer stated that the current proposal was to extend the setback from the intersection to 60 feet. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 14th Avenue East and 2nd Street

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 14th Avenue East and 2nd Street. He stated that a study had previously been performed by the City of Duluth Traffic Engineering Division in response to concerns about the safety of the intersection as pedestrians and vehicles cross 2nd Street on 14th Avenue East. Mr. Bauer stated that a hedge at the southwest corner of the intersection, combined with vehicles parked up to 20 feet from the intersection, could present concerns with adequate sightlines for safe passage through the intersection and turns onto 2nd Street from 14th Avenue East and that the engineering division had recommended adjusting the setback to 100 feet from the avenue to alleviate these concerns. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to convert two single-space meters to ADA parking stalls on West Michigan Street

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to convert two single-space meters on the 400 West block of Michigan Street to ADA parking stalls. He stated that the request had come from Arc Northland, in the adjacent Ordean Building, which serves the needs of many citizens who have accessibility concerns. Mr. Bauer stated that one of the factors in the request related to a vehicle that had frequently been observed parking for extended periods of time in the one current area ADA stall, which was legal but removed the space from public availability most days. Commissioner Andy Goldfine stated that he had observed this issue throughout the area and requested that the parking division study possibilities for adding time limits on ADA stalls. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal to convert the two single-space meters to ADA stalls be approved, with the provision that the parking division study and report on the possibility of adding time limits to ADA stalls. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

On-Street ADA signage request

Mr. Bauer presented a request from the resident at 121 North 28th Avenue West to add on-street ADA signage in front of her home. Mr. Bauer stated that he had conducted a site visit and supported the request. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the request be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Discussion on first-hour-free parking at municipal ramps

Mr. Bauer and Interstate Parking Company Duluth Area Manager John Clark described several possible first-hour-free rate plans for Technology Village Ramp, Hart District Ramp, Medical District Ramp, and 410 West Public Ramp. Mr. Bauer stated that the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee had expressed interest in first-hour-free options, originally to offset possible negative effects of Superior Street reconstruction but later to promote business in general in the downtown area. He stated that several rate structure scenarios had been discussed in the most recent DPAC meeting and that the group had agreed that a revenue-neutral plan might be the best option. Mr. Bauer stated that he would soon meet with city administration to gather further input on the concepts and would continue to work toward a possible proposal with the applicable parties.

Presentation and discussion of the proposed 2017 parking fund budget

Mr. Bauer presented the proposed 2017 parking fund budget and provided the commission with a copy of the proposal package.

Former City of Duluth Parking Manager comments

Commissioner McDonald invited former City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy, who had attended the meeting as a member of the public, to speak to the commission. Mr. Kennedy stated that it had been a pleasure to have worked with the commission during his time with the city. He stated that his position had been eliminated and that he had not resigned. Commissioner McDonald thanked Mr. Kennedy for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors, as did Mr. Bauer.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2016-37

November 3, 2016


To install one on-street ADA-accessible parking space at 121 North 28th Avenue West.

IT IS RESOLVED by the Duluth Parking Commission to install one ADA-accessible parking space adjacent to 121 North 28th Avenue West.


STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This action serves to address the accessibility needs of the resident at the above-referenced address.

Approved 6-0.



Andy McDonald, President



Laura Marquardt, Deputy Chief of Police

DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2016-36

November 3, 2016

To convert two single-space parking meters on the 500 West block of Michigan Street to two ADA parking spaces.

IT IS RESOLVED by the Duluth Parking Commission to convert two single space parking meters, at the northeast corner of 5th Avenue West and Michigan Street, to ADA accessible parking spaces, with the provision that the parking division also study the possibility of revising on-street parking time limits related to ADA-designated parking stalls.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This action serves to address the current needs of the nearby Ordean building, which serves a large number of clients with increased accessibility requirements. The parking commission requested that the possibility of adding time limits to on-street ADA parking spaces be studied by the parking division for future consideration.

Approved 6-0.



Andy McDonald, President



Laura Marquardt, Deputy Chief of Police

DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2016-35

November 3, 2016

To prohibit parking near the intersection of 14th Avenue East and 2nd Street.

IT IS RESOLVED by the Duluth Parking Commission to establish a parking prohibition at the southwest corner of the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street, from a point 100 feet west to the crosswalk.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This action serves to address safety concerns regarding sightlines for motorists and pedestrians as vehicular traffic approaches the intersection of 14th Avenue East and 2nd Street. The City of Duluth Traffic Engineering division performed a study indicating that a much longer setback than the prescribed state statute of 20 feet was warranted in this case.

Approved 6-0.



Andy McDonald, President



Laura Marquardt, Deputy Chief of Police

DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2016-34

November 3, 2016

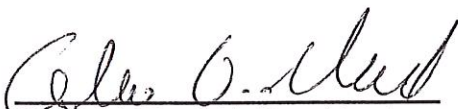
To prohibit parking near the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street.

IT IS RESOLVED by the Duluth Parking Commission to establish a parking prohibition at the southwest corner of the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street, from a point 60 feet west to the crosswalk.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This action serves to address safety concerns regarding sightlines for motorists and pedestrians as vehicular traffic approaches the intersection of 9th Avenue East and 2nd Street, as well as providing adequate room for city busses to pick up and drop off passengers at the bus stop that occupies the area.

Approved 6-0.



Andy McDonald, President



Laura Marquardt, Deputy Chief of Police