

Duluth Parking Commission
Forty-Fifth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, June 3, 2016
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine
- Howie Hanson, Vice President
- Steve LaFlamme
- Andy McDonald, President
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Chad Smith
- Karin Swor

Guests Present

- Josh Abraham, Recreation Specialist – City of Duluth
- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Elissa Hansen – Duluth City Councilor At-Large
- Jenn Reed Moses, Planner – City of Duluth
- Shawna Mullen, Active Transportation Coordinator – Healthy Duluth

Approval 5/6/16 meeting minutes

Approval of the 5/6/16 meeting minutes was deferred to a future meeting due to the lack of a quorum of commissioners present.

Proposal to create an on-street parklet fee

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy described a proposal, in the form of a city council resolution, to create a new fee for use of on-street metered parking spaces for staging parklets. He stated that the proposal specified a flat \$250.00 annual fee for use of a parking space for a parklet and added that the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission had previously reviewed the proposal and voted unanimously in support. City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer noted that the new fee, if approved, would equate to an approximate 75% discount from the city council-established meter rental fee any other party would pay for use of an on-street metered parking space during a parklet season. Duluth City Councilor At-Large Elissa Hansen stated that the reduced fee is justified by the intent of public use of the parklets. Commissioner Steve LaFlamme stated that he supported the fee proposal but asked how the process is administered. City of Duluth planner Jenn Reed Moses described the process and the key requirements for on-street parklets, which included stipulations that there be only one parklet per block face, that a parklet must be designed to fit into a parking stall, and that at least 50% of the stakeholders within 100 feet of the proposed parklet indicate support of the installation via a petition. Commissioner Andy Goldfine suggested that a tiered rate structure be considered, featuring higher rates for higher-demand areas. Commission President Andy McDonald stated that he supported the proposed parklet fee. Councilor Hansen stated that the parklet fee resolution would be presented to the Duluth City Council in their June 13, 2016 meeting. Commissioner McDonald stated that while a formal vote could not be taken due to the lack of a quorum, all four present members of the parking commission had indicated their support of the proposal.

Follow-up discussion of the on-street parking time limit ordinance

Mr. Kennedy introduced a continuation of a discussion regarding the 24-hour on-street parking time limit ordinance. He described some of the reasons for having a time limit for on-street parking, including encouragement of parking turnover in high-density areas. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Bauer described the history of Duluth's time limit ordinance, detailing the various time limits that have been employed since 1950 and noting that the current 24-hour limit has been in place since 1976. Commissioner Goldfine stated that the history of the ordinance seemed to imply some of the reasons for the various changes over time. Mr. Kennedy noted that the 24-hour limit matches the standard 24-hour notification period for special items such as snow trains and street maintenance. He stated that this parity serves a useful purpose by decreasing the chance of a parker being taken off-guard by a shorter "special project" timeframe if, for example, the standard time limit was 48 or 72 hours. Commissioner Goldfine suggested that a seasonal time limit system could be employed, featuring a longer limit in the summer months and a shorter limit during the snow season. Commissioner McDonald requested that more research be conducted regarding the time limits in other similar cities. Mr. Kennedy noted that Burlington, Vermont, features a time limit system that specifies that a vehicle parked on-street must be moved at least 25 feet at least every 72 hours and added that vehicles that do not comply with these

regulations are subject to a \$75.00 fine and a possible immediate tow. Commissioner LaFlamme requested an analysis of the pros and cons of example time limit configurations. He added that he might be open to an adjusted time limit of 48 hours or so but would not recommend an extension to seven days, a configuration in place in Duluth from March 1975 to April 1976.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of 34th Avenue West during Wade Stadium events

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of 34th Avenue West during Wade Stadium events. Mr. Bauer described the proposal, which would prohibit parking from a point south of West 2nd Street to the entrance to the Wade Stadium parking lot. He stated that the proposal had been presented to the parking division by Josh Abraham, City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division Recreations Specialist, on behalf of a storage business located on the east side of 34th Avenue West, as well as the Duluth Huskies organization, which had fielded complaints from the business owner. Mr. Abraham stated that the owner of the business had reported problems with sightlines, access, and turning radii into his parking lot as a result of vehicles parking in the area. Mr. Bauer noted that the referenced 34th Avenue West features calendar-based alternate side parking and stated that the narrowness of the street presents a safety hazard when cars are parked on both sides, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass. Mr. Abraham stated that a mini master plan was in an early stage of development that would provide more parking options in the area and better pedestrian routes between Wade Stadium and the nearby Wheeler Field parking lot, which is often used as a parking overflow option during stadium events. Commissioner McDonald asked the parking division to gather input from the Duluth Fire Department regarding any access concerns for emergency vehicles attempting to reach Wade Stadium. Mr. Kennedy stated that the parking division would provide an updated map of the area that includes more of the area streets, along with their current parking configurations and roadway widths. Due to the lack of a quorum, a vote on this item was deferred to a later parking commission meeting.

Off-street parking update

Duluth Operations Manager John Clark provided an update on off-street parking operations, noting that the exterior windows of the parking ramps had been washed and that the fee enforcement season for off-street Canal Park lots had begun, though so far occupancy levels had been down from the previous season, likely due to inclement weather. Mr. Bauer noted that test documents had been signed for the new SKIDATA access and revenue control equipment at Technology Village Ramp, HART District Ramp, Medical District Ramp, and the new ramp at 410 West 1st Street that acknowledge that the equipment was functioning correctly and that the completed system had been accepted by the city. Commissioner Goldfine requested that locations within the new ramp be identified for bicycle parking racks.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on the most recent Downtown Parking Advisory Committee meeting, indicating that the primary topic of conversation was preparation for the tentative upcoming redevelopment of Superior Street. He stated that related topics included the concepts of providing the first hour free at the municipal parking ramps and extending the current standard 80-minute on-street parking time limit featured throughout most of downtown to two hours. He stated that he would keep the parking commission informed as these discussions continued.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy, CAPP, CPP
Parking Commission Secretary