

Duluth Parking Commission  
Fifty-Third Meeting  
7:30 a.m. Friday, July 21, 2017  
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

**Members Present**

- Andy Goldfine, Vice President
- Noland Makowsky
- Andy McDonald, President
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor

**Members Absent**

- Howie Hanson

**Guests Present**

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company, Inc.
- James Watschke, Water Street Stakeholder

**Approval of June 2017 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Jessica Sterle motioned that the minutes for the June 2017 parking commission meeting be approved. Commission Vice President Andy Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

**Community input on Water Street parking configuration**

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer provided a brief history of the parking configuration on 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue West/Water Street/Cass Street. He stated that the parking commission had approved a parking prohibition along the entire road, from Commonwealth Avenue south to the road's terminus, in August 2014. He stated that the reason for the parking prohibition had been that the road was too narrow to allow for safe and consistent passage of emergency and other vehicles with vehicles parked in the roadway. James Watschke, who had fished from the neighboring shoreline for many years, stated that he and many others had a right to continue fishing in the area and that enforcement of the parking prohibition impeded that right. Mr. Watschke stated that many disabled and/or elderly people fish in the area and added that when officers have arrived at the site in response to calls for service from area residents, they have agreed with the parties fishing that there is no practical problem with their activities. He stated that the locations of the no parking signage appeared to have been placed specifically to apply to the vehicles associated with the fishing activity. Commission President Andy McDonald stated that while he did not support the placement of the signage as a method of addressing other unwanted reported activities, he did agree with the locations of signage to enhance safety in the area. Mr. Bauer suggested the possibility of working with other City of Duluth divisions toward the possible development of an off-street parking area that would serve the needs of the people fishing in the area and would also satisfy the safety concerns of parking on the roadway. Commissioner stated that a potential new parking area could include designated ADA parking, to address the needs of those with accessibility concerns. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the parking division proceed with research and interdepartmental communication regarding the possibility of development of an off-street parking area that includes ADA accessible parking. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

**East High School residential permit parking zone revision proposal**

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to adjust the physical boundaries of the Duluth East High School Residential Permit Parking Zone. He stated that the recommendation of the parking division had been developed based on the results of a mailed area survey, a May 30, 2017 community forum at Duluth East High School, and other input received from stakeholders. Mr. Bauer described that the proposed new zone would eliminate from the existing zone Dodge Street, Jay Street, Pitt Street, Rockview Court, Cooke Street, Gladstone Street east of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and west of Northland Avenue, 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue East north of Gladstone Street, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue East north of McColloch Street, 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East north of Robinson Street, 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East north of Robinson Street, and Gilliat Street, Luverne Street, Lombard Street, and London Road east of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East. He stated that, based on the survey responses and other community feedback, that Cambridge Street between Superior Street and London Road would be added to the zone. Mr. Bauer provided a map that illustrated the existing zone and the proposed new zone, as well as a map that illustrated the survey responses. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

## **Proposal to reconfigure parking related to the conversion of certain downtown avenues to two-way traffic**

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to reconfigure parking on sections of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street related to the ongoing conversion of the adjoining avenues from one-way to two-way traffic. He stated that the recommendations had been brought to the parking division the traffic engineering division and that the purpose of the changes was to accommodate adjusted bus stop locations while enhancing sightlines for drivers and pedestrians approaching the intersections. He described the recommendations indicated on a map the parking division had received from traffic engineering, which included the relocations of two bus stops, parking setbacks on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West, and the relocation of a loading zone near the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West that would require the elimination of one single-space meter. Mr. Bauer asked for commissioners' opinions on the use of yellow paint on curbs to indicate parking prohibitions, noting that the City had not used this method for at least several years and adding that painting curbs creates a precedent with regard to ticketing for infractions and also involves a certain amount of materials and labor cost to maintain that standard. The majority of the commissioners indicated that they preferred signage as the method of indicating parking prohibitions. The commissioners indicated that they were having difficulty interpreting the maps provided by engineering and requested that the parking division create maps in the format normally used in commission meetings to enhance clarity. Mr. Bauer stated that he would do so and provide the new maps to the commission in the next meeting. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be tabled until the August 2017 commission meeting. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

## **Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of West Austin Street**

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of West Austin Street, between Colman Avenue and Elysian Avenue. He stated that the resident of 169 West Austin Street had reported difficulty safely accessing and leaving her driveway due to the crest on the road at that location, the narrowness of the road, and vehicles parking in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that the road measured approximately 17' in width at the referenced section, far below the Fire Department-recommended width of 26' to allow parking on either side. Commissioner Goldfine motioned to approve the proposal. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

## **Proposal to extend a no parking zone on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue East**

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to extend a no parking zone on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. He provided a map that indicated the existing no parking zone, which had been implemented to enhance sightlines between traffic on the avenue and the adjacent driveways, which serve residents of Chester Park Drive. He stated the resident of 1118 Chester Park Drive had requested that the zone be extended, and during the subsequent site visit, Mr. Bauer verified that it was difficult to see oncoming traffic while exiting her driveway. Mr. Bauer recommended relocating the parking prohibition end signage south on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, to a point 7' south of the driveway cut serving 1114 Chester Park Drive. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Karin Swor Seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

## **Discussion on residential permit parking zone enforcement practices**

Mr. Bauer stated that he had been made aware of an email that had been transmitted to at least one of the commissioners from a resident within the East High School Residential Permit Parking Zone regarding the parking division's enforcement practices for visitor permit parking. Commissioner Sterle asked Mr. Bauer to share with the rest of the commissioners the email she had received and to include a discussion of this item in the next commission meeting. Mr. Bauer stated that the email had come from the resident of an address within the zone who said that her guest had received a ticket for violation of the visitor permit parameters and indicated she was unhappy with the enforcement procedures employed. He added that the resident had also express unhappiness with the appeal procedure. Mr. Bauer briefly outlined the parameters and enforcement processes regarding the residential zone visitors' permits and stated that he would include the item on the August meeting agenda.

## **Off-street parking update**

Mr. Bauer introduced Doug Melander, the new Duluth Operations Manager for Interstate Parking. Commissioner McDonald stated that the Duluth public parking system had experienced great improvements since Interstate Parking had been awarded the operating contract in 2012. Mr. Melander stated that he and Mr. Bauer were currently working on the 2018 budget for the off-street parking portion of the parking funds. Commissioner Goldfine inquired whether Mr. Melander had previously had a role with the Greater Downtown Council. Mr. Melander replied that he had served two separate terms as the council chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer  
Parking Operations Specialist