

**Duluth Parking Commission**  
**Fifty-Ninth Meeting**  
7:30 a.m. Friday, February 2, 2018  
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

**Members Present**

- Andy Goldfine, Vice President
- Noland Makowsky
- Andy McDonald, President
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor
- Michael Warsop
- Em Westerlund

**Guests Present**

- Mark Anderson, Duluth Resident
- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Dick Ledoux – Duluth Resident
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company, Inc.

**Approval of January 2018 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Noland Makowsky motioned to approve the minutes of the January 2018 Duluth Parking Commission meeting. Commissioner Michael Warsop seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

**Proposal to prohibit parking on Covent Place**

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on Covent Place, from the point at which 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue East becomes Covent Place to the street's eastern terminus. He stated that the parking prohibition request had been made by Dick Ledoux, a resident of Covent Place, who had stated that road passage by maintenance and service vehicles was, at times, obstructed by vehicles parking on the street due to its narrow average width. Mr. Bauer stated that a stakeholder survey had been performed and that four of the respondents had indicated support for the proposed change, while one opposed it. Mr. Ledoux, who was in attendance at the meeting, indicated that he would prefer that the entire road feature a parking prohibition, from 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue East's intersection with Idlewild Street to Covent Place's eastern terminus. Mr. Bauer stated that the road width on the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue East portion featured an average 27' street width that, according to the Duluth Fire Department's current guidelines, would safely allow one-sided parking while providing enough room for emergency (and service) vehicles to pass. He stated that road width narrowed to an average of 22' after the bend in the road where Covent Street began, which resulted in the parking division's compromise recommendation and proposal. Mark Anderson, the resident who had indicated that his property was associated with most of the vehicles that park on the roadway, was also in attendance and stated that he would not be opposed to the proposed change. Commissioner Warsop motioned that the proposal be approved, with specificity to the locations of the parking prohibition "Begin" signage that would allow for both safety and adequate on-street parking near the bend in the road. Commissioner Jessica Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 5-1.

**Proposal to convert a portion of East 8<sup>th</sup> Street to two-hour time limit parking 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an alternate side configuration**

Mr. Bauer introduced a proposal to convert East 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Clover Street to 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to two-hour time limit parking from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an alternate side configuration. He stated that several parties had contacted the parking division and requested better clarity and consistency regarding the area's parking configuration. He stated that concern had also been expressed by area residents that many vehicles were parking on the street and staying unmoved all day, limiting the amount of parking available for the residents and the nearby business area. Mr. Bauer stated that a stakeholder survey had been performed, indicating that all three respondents favored the change. He added that the City's street maintenance division supported an alternate side configuration on the street. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner Warsop seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

## **Proposal to reconfigure parking on a portion of East 4<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to reconfigure parking on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Hawthorne Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. He stated that the existing configuration featured one-sided parking and was implemented at a time when the neighboring school was a senior high school, with a large number of students parking in the area. He stated that since the school was converted to a middle school, the daytime parking needs had greatly decreased. Mr. Bauer stated that a survey of area stakeholders indicated that two respondents favored a conversion from one-sided parking to alternate side parking, with four opposing the conversion, but added that the City's street crews would prefer alternate side parking so that adequate curb-to-curb snow plowing and other street maintenance could occur. As a compromise, Mr. Bauer recommended a new configuration for the area that featured 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. alternate side parking, with both-sided parking allowed at all other times. He stated that this would allow for City crews to perform their duties while also allowing residents to use either side of the street for parking during the day. Commission President Andy McDonald stated that he supported the proposal, since it would address the current needs of the area, with adequate consideration given for parkers associated with evening events at the middle school, who would be able to park on both sides of the street during those times. Commissioner McDonald motioned that the proposal to convert East 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Hawthorne Avenue to 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue West from one-sided parking to alternate side parking 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. be approved. Commissioner Warsop seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

## **On-street ADA signage requests**

Mr. Bauer proposed that an on-street ADA signage request be approved. He stated that the requesting party was the father of a terminally ill resident and that situation did not allow for the usual 60-90-day review period prior to signage approval. He stated due to the urgent and temporary needs of the requesting party, signage had already been installed at the location. Commissioner Warsop motioned that the request related to 513 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

## **Off-street parking update**

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Doug Melander provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that a major structural repair project at Hart District Ramp has recently been completed, and he noted that by making the investment in the repairs the City of Duluth has gained many more years of useful life from the facility. He stated that Interstate Parking was continuing work with the City on lighting improvement projects throughout the parking system. Mr. Melander provided information on the ongoing first-hour-free program employed in the four major downtown facilities and stated that the information clearly indicated that the program was effective in attracting off-street parkers.

## **On-street parking update**

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that the Park Duluth mobile parking payment system was continuing to grow, with steady increases in both the number of download of the application and in the total numbers of transactions. He stated that, in response to a question in the January parking commission meeting, he had verified that the 1000 East block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street featured meters all along the south side of the street. Mr. Bauer provided two reports to the commissioners, again based on a discussion in the previous meeting, that illustrated turnover of on-street spaces on the 300 West block of Superior Street. Commission Vice President Andy Goldfine inquired whether it would be possible for the parking division to create a graphic representation of the block that would illustrate revenue and usage per meter. Mr. Bauer stated that he would work toward fulfilling the request. Mr. Bauer stated that a resolution was working toward Duluth City Council proposal that would request a new study of the desirability among area stakeholders of the on-street parking meters Lincoln Park by the parking division.

## **Election of Commission President and Vice President**

Commissioner Warsop motioned that Commission Vice President Andy Goldfine be elected President for the coming year. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that Commissioner Warsop be elected Vice President for the coming year. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer  
Parking Operations Specialist