

Duluth Parking Commission
Sixty-Eighth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, February 1, 2019
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine, President
- Dennis Jensen
- Noland Makowsky
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor

Members Absent

- Em Westerlund

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Carl Crawford, Human Rights Officer – City of Duluth
- Howard Lacy, ADA zone applicant
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking, Inc.

Approval of December 2018 meeting minutes

Commissioner Jessica Sterle motioned that the December 2018 parking commission meeting minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Dennis Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

On-street ADA parking zone requests

Mr. Bauer presented five accessible parking signage requests for approval. He stated that he had consulted with the applicants and the City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities and had performed site visits to each property. Mr. Bauer recommended approval of all five applications. Duluth resident Howard Lacy addressed the commission, stating that instead of the one on-street stall recommended by the parking division, he wanted six total on-street ADA parking stalls to serve three vehicles. He stated that he wanted three stalls on each side of the 200 block of East 8th Street. Mr. Bauer stated that there was no precedent of which the parking division was aware for granting this many stalls for one resident but stated that the parking division was happy to continue consulting with Mr. Lacy on other parking options. City of Duluth Human Rights Officer Carl Crawford addressed the commission in support of the parking division's recommendation. Commissioner Jensen recommended that Mr. Lacy petition the State of Minnesota, who Mr. Lacy stated owns the land adjacent to his, to explore the possibility of purchasing a portion of the parcel to serve his parking needs. Mr. Bauer and Mr. Lacy both confirmed that the intent behind the request for ADA parking stalls was primarily to avoid moving the vehicles every 24-hours, in compliance with City Code. Mr. Lacy confirmed that one of the vehicles is registered in his wife's name and that she was able to comply with the 24-hour ordinance. Mr. Lacy also confirmed that there is no shortage of available on-street parking in the area. Commissioner Karin Swor motioned that that original recommendation for one one-street ADA stall serving Mr. Lacy's property at 231 East 8th Street be approved, with the proviso that the parking division continue to work with Mr. Lacy on other viable parking options. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the application for 615 North 58th Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the application for 2108 West 3rd Street be approved. Commissioner Noland Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the application for 326 North 23rd Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Swor motioned that the application for 505 North 57th Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to add an ADA parking zone on the 400 block of West Michigan Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to implement two adjacent four-hour time limit ADA stalls on the upper side of the 400 block of West Michigan Street, adjacent to the Ordean Building. Mr. Bauer stated that the building's visitors have a significant need for adjacent ADA stalls following the recent redevelopment of Superior Street, which eliminated the ADA stall on the north side of the building, at least temporarily. Mr. Bauer stated that the four-hour time limit was recommended so that visitors to the building retain fair access to the stalls, while an adjacent stall with no time limit would be retained. Mr. Bauer stated that that parking division would continue to work with other parties toward restoring the ADA stall on Superior Street, and he stated that the parking division would be consulting with the engineering and other parties regarding ADA stalls related to the upcoming Phase Two and Phase Three portions of the Superior Street redevelopment project. Mr. Crawford addressed the commission and expressed support for the parking division's recommendation and plans. Commissioner Swor motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to implement a four-hour time limit zone on the 1200 block of East 1st Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to install a four-hour time limit parking zone at 1218 East 1st Street, adjacent to Evergreen Realty. He stated that the Evergreen had requested the zone to serve their customers, who otherwise found it challenging to find a nearby stall during business hours due to the number of employees of the nearby hospital who commonly park all day in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that the area to the west of the block featured 12-hour time limit meters but that there were no meters on the 1200 block of 1st Street. Mr. Bauer also stated that there was a significant amount of residential housing on the 1200 block. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Doug Melander provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that Interstate assumption of on-street meter collections duties for the City was progressing smoothly and that the second full route collection was upcoming. He stated that the off-street parking ramp equipment had been functioning well in the recent cold weather. He alerted the group to the upcoming "Festival of Sails" in summer 2019, noting that Interstate was already making plans for parking management for the event.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that installation of the street-facing Park Duluth mobile payment application stickers was nearly complete, which would provide an enhanced customer experience for parkers. He stated that on-street parking operations were progressing smoothly on the newly-opened section of Superior Street and that parkers were not having trouble using the new "pay-by-plate" configuration in the area. He stated that a new parking commissioner had been approved by City Council and would be starting with the March 2019 meeting. Mr. Bauer alerted the group that his position of Parking Operations Specialist and the parking division administration currently being performed by Deputy Chief of Police Laura Marquardt, as well other duties, had been combined into a new position titled "Parking Services Manager" and that he had applied for the position.

Election of commission president and vice president

Commissioner Swor motioned that Andy Goldfine be elected to a second term as parking commission president. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Jensen motioned that Jessica Sterle be elected as commission vice president. Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Meeting adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Operations Specialist