

Duluth Parking Commission
Seventy-Third Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, August 2, 2019
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine, President
- Dennis Jensen
- Kris Liljeblad
- Noland Makowsky
- Jessica Sterle, Vice President
- Karin Swor
- Em Westerlund
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Guests Present

- Carl Crawford, Human Rights Officer – City of Duluth
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Tiss Underdahl, Duluth resident

Approval of June 2019 meeting minutes

Commissioner Noland Makowsky motioned that the June 2019 parking commission meeting minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Proposal to convert a portion of Dunedin Street to one-sided parking

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented a proposal to convert the 2200 block of Dunedin Street to south-side-only parking from its current default configuration of alternate side parking. Mr. Bauer stated that the proposal had been generated by area resident Tiss Underdahl, who had created a petition for the change and had obtained the signatures of the majority of the residents on the block. Ms. Underdahl stated that the residents believed it to be dangerous to park on the south side of the street, due to a slope that bordered the roadway. Mr. Bauer stated that he had consulted with the City's Street Maintenance Division, who had indicated that they would prefer the street to remain alternate sided parking. He stated that since the issue was discovered, parking staff had noted that vehicles had been parking on the correct side of the street each week with no noticeable safety issues in doing so. Ms. Underdahl stated that residents had been parking only on the north side for many years with no problems related to plowing, access, or street maintenance. Commissioner Dennis Jensen motioned that the proposal to convert the 2200 block of Dunedin Street to north-side-only parking be approved. Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

On-street ADA parking zone requests

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented two 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 the properties. Mr. Bauer recommended approval of both applications. Commissioner Swor motioned that the application for 927 East 3rd Street be approved. Commissioner Kris Liljeblad seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Commissioner Jessica Sterle motioned that the application for 426 2nd Ave. West be approved. Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on certain areas of East 1st Street near St. Luke's Hospital

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert six single-space meter parking stalls near 1101 East 1st Street to a no parking zone. He stated that the request had been generated by St. Luke's Hospital administration, who had indicated that they would like to improve sightline distances between drivers entering and exiting their off-street parking lot and those on 1st Street. Mr. Bauer stated that because the request related to safety and that the only likely affected stakeholders would be patients of and visitors to St. Luke's, he supported the proposal. Commission president Andy Goldfine stated that he was reluctant to approve removal of parking meters without data that accidents had occurred as a result of inadequate sightlines. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the proposal to remove the meters in favor of a parking prohibition be approved. Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 4-3.

Proposal to extend alternate side parking 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. to include the entire 1900 block of East 8th Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to extend the alternate side 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. parking configuration on the 1900 block of East 8th Street from its current endpoint about halfway down the block to the end of the block, at the intersection with 20th Avenue East. He stated that the request to do so had been originated by the management of At Sara's Table, who stated that they were expanding their business and would have a greater need for daytime parking as a result. Commissioner Liljeblad motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Em Westerlund seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Proposal to convert a single-stall meter on South Lake Avenue to an ADA zone

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert a single-stall meter on South Lake Avenue to an ADA zone. He stated that the Duluth Transit Authority had noted the presence of an ADA sign within a DTA bus stop adjacent to Grandma's Sports Garden. Mr. Bauer stated that for clarity and for proper ADA parking access, the sign should be relocated to the next stall to the south, currently a single-space meter. He stated that Grandma's Sports Garden management had been consulted and supported the proposed change. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Proposal to create a two-hour parking zone on the 1300 block of East 3rd Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a new two-hour parking zone at 1324 East 1st Street, adjacent to Chester Creek Dental. He stated that the dental office had originated the request and that the intent was to provide convenient, regularly available parking for visitors to the business. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved, with a note on the signage that the zone was applicable 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Makowsky 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 operations so far through the summer had been going generally very smoothly, and that a sinkhole that had appeared at Lake City Lot had been repaired by a contractor.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that the process of ordering the pay stations for the phase two section of the Superior Street reconstruction project was in progress. He stated that the City's engineering staff had designed a ramp leading from Superior Street to the Ordean Building to facilitate an adjacent ADA parking stall and that the proposal for the stall itself would be presented in the next parking commission meeting. Mr. Bauer stated that he would soon be presenting the parking division's five-year plan to the commission, which would include a proposal for new on-street technology for the remainder of Duluth's fee-bearing streets beyond Superior Street. Commissioner Andy Goldfine suggested repurposing the old single-space meters once replaced, for example at park trailheads to collect donations.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Services Manager