

Duluth Parking Commission
Seventy-Fifth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, October 4, 2019
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

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

Members Absent

- Em Westerlund

Guests Present

- Carl Crawford, Human Rights Officer – City of Duluth
- Matthew Hamann, Student – University of Minnesota-Duluth
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor
- Jairet Waldbillig, Student – University of Minnesota-Duluth

Approval of September 2019 meeting minutes

Commissioner Noland Makowsky motioned that the September 2019 parking commission meeting minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Dennis Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to implement a ten-minute drop-off zone and an ADA parking zone on Central Avenue

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a new ten-minute drop-off zone and an ADA accessible parking zone directly adjacent to the West Theater, at 319 North Central Avenue. He stated that the request had been generated by the owner of the theater, who had recently redeveloped and reopened it. Mr. Bauer stated that many of the patrons utilize both on-street and off-street parking options but that there was no dedicated off-street parking for the theater. Commission Vice President Jessica Sterle inquired whether the adjacent businesses had been consulted on the proposed new zones. Mr. Bauer stated that they had not, because the stalls would be located only adjacent to the theater and anyone in the area could make use of them with valid credentials and/or proper use, as applicable. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to approve a monthly parking rate at Lot C

Mr. Bauer introduced a proposal to implement a new monthly parking rate at Lot C. Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Doug Melander stated that the new monthly rate of \$75.00 would provide parking for vehicles displaced by the upcoming closure of the nearby US Bank ramp, as well as for other parkers. Mr. Melander indicated that transient parking use of the lot was very low and that shifting monthly parkers to the lot would make better use of available space. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to approve the Parking Services Division's Five-Year Plan

Mr. Bauer presented the Parking Services Division's proposed Five-Year Plan. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the plan be approved as presented. Commissioner Sterle seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to approve the Parking Services Division's proposed 2020 parking fund budget

Mr. Bauer presented the Parking Services Division's proposed 2020 budget. Commission President Andy Goldfine inquired into the amount of improvement made in the collection of overdue parking fees and penalties since the inception of the current version of the parking commission. Mr. Bauer stated that significant improvement had occurred, largely due to the efforts of the City's internal collections specialist. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the budget be approved as presented. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Mr. Bauer separately described the Parking Services Division's proposal to adjust certain annual permit and ticket fees, particularly an adjustment from \$24.00 to \$28.00 for certain tickets and a restructuring of the annual contractor parking permit fees system that would provide better equity between larger and smaller companies. Commissioner Sterle motioned to approve the recommended fee structure. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Doug Melander provided a brief update on off-street parking operations. He stated that preparations were underway for the upcoming parking fee enforcement offseason in Canal Park.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that new parking pay stations had been received from T2 Systems and would be installed by the time the phase two section of Superior Street reopened in early November.

Public comments

Commissioner Goldfine invited the members of the public in attendance to address the commission with any comments. John Ramos, who identified himself as an investigative reporter for the Duluth Monitor, stated that the public must be allowed to comment at parking commission meetings. Commissioner Goldfine stated that this had just occurred, as the public had been invited to comment and Mr. Ramos was currently addressing the commission. Mr. Ramos also stated that hard-copy packets of all commission materials must be provided to the public at each meeting, in addition to the versions presented at the meetings on video, the packets available from staff upon request, and the copies of the current meeting agenda and previous meeting's minutes available at each meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Services Manager