

Duluth Parking Commission
Forty-Third Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, April 8, 2016
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine
- Howie Hanson
- Steve LaFlamme, President
- Andy McDonald
- Karin Swor
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Chad Smith

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Cody Mass, Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Mary St. Michael, Missouri Avenue Resident

Approval 3/4/16 meeting minutes

Commissioner Andy McDonald motioned to approve the Duluth Parking Commission March 2016 meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Andy Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of Birchwood Road

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy provided an overview of a Duluth resident's proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of Birchwood Road. City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer described the proposal, which was originally requested by a resident of the Birchwood Road area but not of Birchwood Road itself. He stated that the proposed change would prohibit parking on a 202-foot portion of Birchwood Road, on both sides of the crest of a hill. Mr. Bauer stated that the resident had requested the change from calendar-based alternate side parking due to safety concerns, explaining that the resident had suggested that traffic approaching the top of the hill from either direction could be forced into oncoming traffic while navigating past parked cars and might have to do so blindly, due to the grade of the hill. Mr. Bauer provided a map that illustrated the proposal and noted that the results of a survey of the area stakeholders indicated relatively balanced feedback for and against the proposal but that the majority of the respondents whose properties directly abutted the proposed parking prohibition were strongly opposed to it. Commissioner McDonald stated that traffic safety can, in many cases, be enhanced by the presence of vehicles parked on the street, noting that traffic tends to slow down as a result. Commissioner McDonald motioned that the proposal to prohibit parking on the referenced portion of Birchwood Road be denied. Commission President Steve LaFlamme seconded the denial motion, which passed 5-0.

Reversal of a parking prohibition on a portion of Missouri Avenue

Mr. Kennedy described a proposal to reverse the approval of a parking prohibition on a portion of Missouri Avenue. He stated that a parking prohibition on Missouri Avenue between West College Street and Lyons Street had been approved in 2015 but that certain area residents subsequently had expressed opposition to the prohibition. Mr. Bauer stated that, following the March 2016 parking commission meeting in which the proposal to reverse the approval was originally presented, he had performed a mailed survey of all residents of the avenue that indicated support for the reversal of the parking prohibition on the portion of Missouri Avenue from Chester Way to Lyons Street but support for retaining the prohibition on the portion between West College Street and Chester Way. He stated that, consequently, the city parking division's recommendation was to reverse the prohibition on the Chester Way to Lyons Street portion but to continue the prohibition on the West College Street to Chester Way portion. Missouri Avenue resident Mary St. Michael stated that her preference was to reverse the prohibition for the entire area, from West College Street to Lyons Street. Mr. Bauer suggested that the partial reversal of the prohibition be approved with the provision that the configuration be reexamined once two vacant houses on Missouri Avenue are occupied. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the parking division's proposal to reverse the approval of the parking prohibition on the portion of Missouri Avenue between Chester Way and Lyons Street be approved. Commissioner LaFlamme seconded the motion, which was approved 4-1 (Commissioner Goldfine dissenting after some intervening discussion among the commissioners).

Restoration of parking on the upper side of the 400 block of West Superior Street

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to add six single-space meters to the north side of the 400 block of West Superior Street. He noted that the meters would replace most of those removed during the construction of the new maurices corporate building. Mr. Bauer stated that he had recently visited the site, along with two city engineers, and determined that six parking spaces, each 22.5 feet long, could be installed while allowing for a planned bus stop, turning radius for the busses, and the clear sightlines to the building entrance requested by maurices' management. Commissioner Karin Swor suggested that one of the spaces be designated as an ADA space. Mr. Bauer and Mr. Kennedy stated that the parking division was supportive of that amendment to the initial proposal. Commissioner Howie Hanson motioned that the proposal to add five single-space meters and one ADA space to the block be approved. Commissioner LaFlamme seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

2016 Canal Park seasonal rate proposal

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to establish 2016 seasonal contract and daily rates for off-street parking lots in Canal Park. Interstate Parking Duluth Operations Manager John Clark described the proposed rates, which included an adjustment to the Lake City Lot daily rate structure that would align it with that of the nearby Lighthouse and Northwest Iron lots and an increase to the daily rates at Lake Place Lot that would serve to simplify the structure for parkers and respond to recent increased parking demand. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposed 2016 Canal Park daily rates be approved. Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposed 2016 Canal Park seasonal contract rates, which included no changes from 2015, be approved. Commissioner Hanson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer stated that he was in the process of communicating with representatives of the University of Minnesota Duluth and a vendor regarding implementation of a citywide pay-by-phone option for on-street parking, which would provide enhanced convenience for parkers while also providing an opportunity to enhance signage that describes applicable parking configurations, rates, and times of enforcement. He stated that the current goal was to develop a joint vendor agreement with UMD to provide citywide consistency and achieve the lowest user rates possible and that he would continue to update the commission on the progress of the project. Mr. Bauer indicated that the goal was a citywide implementation of a pay-by-phone option by Summer 2016.

Off-street parking update

Mr. Clark provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that a vendor was in the process of sweeping and striping all off-street lots and that a proposal regarding key upcoming event parking rates and operating modes would be presented in the May 2016 commission meeting. Mr. Bauer stated that a new multi-space pay station had been ordered for Lot C, which is located adjacent to the new Duluth Transportation Center. He stated that the lot had utilized single-space meters prior to the construction of the center and that the pay station would be placed on the western end of the lot. Mr. Bauer also stated that structural engineering assessments had been completed for off-street city parking structures in late 2015 and that repairs were being planned. Mr. Clark introduced Cody Mass, Interstate's new Duluth area manager.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee update

Mr. Kennedy provided a summary of the items discussed in the March 2016 meeting of the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee. He stated that DPAC was provided an update on the status of the vendor selection and implementation of the citywide pay-by-phone system, that the installation of enhanced wayfinding signage to Medical District Ramp on 3rd Avenue East had been completed, and that he would be updating the parking division's multi-year plan for operational and customer service objectives.

Election of president and vice president

Commissioner Andy McDonald expressed interest in becoming the new president of the parking commission, in replacement of Steve LaFlamme, who was term-limited in the role by the commission bylaws. Commissioner Howie Hansen indicated interest in serving as the commission's new vice president, in replacement of Craig Chilcote, who had chosen not to continue to serve on the commission at the end of his term. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that Commissioner McDonald be approved as president and that Commissioner Hanson be approved as vice president. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy, CAPP, CPP
Parking Commission Secretary