

Duluth Parking Commission
Fifty-Sixth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, November 3, 2017
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine, Vice President
- Noland Makowsky
- Andy McDonald, President
- Jessica Sterle

Members Absent

- Howie Hanson
- Karin Swor

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Carl Crawford, Human Rights Officer – City of Duluth
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company, Inc.
- Michael Warsop, pending parking commission appointee – Duluth Parking Commission

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of West Michigan Street

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of the 2400 block of West Michigan Street. He stated that the request had come from the Duluth Transit Authority, whose drivers had been experiencing difficulty entering and exiting the bus facility on the south side of the street due to reduced turning radii and sightlines related to vehicles parked on the north side of the street. Mr. Bauer stated that Rohlfsing, Inc., the business on the north side of the street, was also in favor of the proposed parking prohibition, which would enhance turning radii and sightlines for their truck drivers as well. Mr. Bauer stated that the parking prohibition would extend from the intersection of 24th Avenue West to a point 7 feet west of the driveway to the Rohlfsing loading dock. As a quorum of parking commissioners was not present at the meeting, the vote on this item was deferred to the December meeting.

Proposal to reconfigure parking on a portion of West Superior Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to remove three single-space meters on the 400 block of West Superior Street, adjacent to the Maurices building. He stated that there had been some internal communications challenges within Maurices that resulted in the addition of metered stalls in front of the building on the upper side of Superior Street which Maurices management now wanted to remove due to their perception that vehicles parked in the stalls would obscure sightlines to their building entranceway. Mr. Bauer stated that he had spoken with all applicable parties and confirmed the desired new parking configuration. Mr. Bauer stated that the parking division would present this item for a vote in the December 2017 parking commission meeting.

Presentation on 2018 parking fund budget

Mr. Bauer provided a presentation on the proposed 2018 parking fund budget. Commission president Andy McDonald requested that the parking division gather and report more information regarding the distribution of the parking fund's annual general fund transfer to other city divisions. Mr. Bauer stated that he would present the 2018 parking fund budget for a vote in the December 2017 parking commission meeting.

On-street ADA signage requests

Mr. Bauer stated that there were five outstanding ADA requests and recommended that the associated signage be installed, noting that there was an urgent need for the ADA zone by the requesting parties, in advance of commission approval. He stated that the requests would be presented in the December 2017 parking commission meeting for approval, with the proviso that the signage would be removed should the requests not be approved at that time. Commissioner Andy Goldfine inquired whether existing on-street ADA signage was periodically reviewed by the parking division to gauge current needs. Mr. Bauer replied that the parking division reviews existing signage on an ongoing basis and frequently requests removals of unneeded signage as such instances are noted.

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Doug Melander provided an update on off-street parking operations. He provided an update on ongoing structural repairs at the Hart District Ramp. He stated that preparations were in progress for public parking during the upcoming Christmas City of the North Parade and commented on the branding distinctions between on-street and off-street parking, noting that the Duluth Parking brand referred to off-street parking and was the brand managed by Interstate Parking. He noted that the associated signage had been improved accordingly. Mr. Melander added that new LED lights were soon being installed at Technology Village Ramp and Medical District Ramp. Commissioner McDonald inquired whether Interstate Parking owned any local parking structures. Mr. Melander replied that currently Interstate did not own any structures but instead operated several under management or lease agreements. Mr. Melander described plans for the upcoming First Hour Free parking program for off-street ramps. Commissioner Noland Makowsky inquired whether any private ramps would be offering the first hour free. Mr. Melander stated that certain private ramps would be participating in the program.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that implementation of the mobile parking payment system, Park Duluth, was nearly complete and would be introduced in an upcoming press event.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Operations Specialist