

Duluth Parking Commission  
Fifty-Eighth Meeting  
7:30 a.m. Friday, January 5, 2018  
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

- Howie Hanson
- Karin Swor

**Guests Present**

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Doug Melander, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company, Inc.
- Renee Van Nett, Duluth City Councilor-Elect

**Approval of December 2017 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Noland Makowsky motioned to approve the minutes of the December 2018 Duluth Parking Commission meeting. Commission Vice President Andy Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

**Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of the 2100 block of London Road**

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of the 2100 block of London Road. He stated that the request to prohibit parking in front of the new Endi development had come from tenants of the building, who were concerned that sightlines between drivers entering London Road from 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East and those on London Road were inadequate, presenting a safety concern. Mr. Bauer stated that visits by the engineering and parking divisions of the City of Duluth had revealed that a moderate uphill grade of 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East as it approaches London Road contributed to the difficulty in seeing approaching traffic on London Road. He stated that the original request by the Endi tenants had been to prohibit all parking on the lower side of London Road from 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue East to 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East but that the parking division recommended a 100' setback from 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East, leaving enough room for approximately two vehicles to legally park in the area. Commissioner Goldfine inquired what research on motor vehicle accident data had been performed. Mr. Bauer stated that no record of previous accidents had been identified. Commission President Andy McDonald stated that changes in the land use of the area now occupied by the Endi building supported the proposed change, even without data indicating that accidents had occurred. Commissioner Goldfine proposed that an amended proposal be approved that specified a 45' setback, rather than the recommended 100', thereby preserving approximately two additional spaces-worth of on-street parking. Commissioner Jessica Sterle seconded the proposal, which was approved 4-1 (Commissioner McDonald dissenting).

**Proposal to extend a no parking setback on the 1100 East block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and add one parking meter**

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to extend a no parking setback on the 1100 East block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and to add one single-space parking meter adjacent to the no parking zone. He stated that the request had been brought to the parking division by St. Luke's Hospital staff, who expressed safety concerns regarding sightlines between traffic entering the roadway from an adjacent St. Luke's parking lot and drivers eastbound on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Bauer stated that a site visit had revealed that there was an unregulated parking zone from the lot's driveway cut and the first parking meter to the east that could accommodate about three vehicles. He stated that he and St. Luke's staff had agreed that one metered space should be added directly to the west of the westernmost meter and that the remaining area should feature a parking prohibition to enhance safety. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Warsop seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

### **On-street ADA signage requests**

Mr. Bauer proposed that two on-street ADA signage requests be approved. He stated that the parking division, in consultation with the City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities, had reviewed the requests and agreed on the need for the zones. Commissioner Michael Warsop motioned that the request related to 5805 Huntington Street be approved. Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the request related to 612 North 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Warsop 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 a major structural repair project at Hart District Ramp has recently been completed. He stated that the main access door for the lower level of the Palmer House lot had been damaged but that new parts to repair the door had been ordered. Mr. Melander said that new LED lights would soon be installed at the Library/Depot Upper Lot by the City of Duluth. He added that following the implementation of the first-hour-free rate structure at the four primary downtown parking ramps, he had noted that the lower rate tiers had been used heavily, indicating success in attracting parkers. He stated that Interstate Parking had made adjustments to the programming of validation tickets to accommodate the new structure. He stated that initially there had been some negative feedback to the rate structure, with some parkers stating that they did not understand that they must enter and exit within the first hour to qualify for the program but that the negative feedback had lowered more recently. Commissioner Sterle stated that it might be helpful to invite area stakeholders to a future parking commission meeting to gather their feedback on the program.

### **On-street parking update**

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that the recently-implemented mobile parking payment system had generated a large number of positive comments on the convenience of the new payment option. He stated that the Lincoln Park Business Group had recently passed a resolution to ask the City of Duluth for a renewed study of the possibility of removing on-street parking meters in Lincoln Park. Mr. Bauer provided the commissioners with a copy of the resolution letter, along with materials related to the history of similar requests for removal of the meters by the LPBG. He stated that two previous studies into the possibility of meter removal had shown that the majority of the stakeholders in the area opposed the removal, but he added that a new study and a survey that proposed a temporary moratorium on meter fees as a test of the concept could be explored. Commissioner Sterle suggested that the LPBG be invited to a future parking commission meeting to further discuss the matter. Mr. Bauer stated that he would initiate this conversation and would keep all parties informed as it progressed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer  
Parking Operations Specialist