

Duluth Parking Commission
Seventieth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, April 12, 2019
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine, President
- Dennis Jensen
- Kris Liljeblad
- Noland Makowsky
- Karin Swor
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Jessica Sterle, Vice President
- Em Westerlund

Approval of March 2019 meeting minutes

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

On-street ADA parking zone requests

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented three 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 each property. Mr. Bauer recommended approval of all three applications. Commissioner Karin Swor motioned that the application for 805 North 57th Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Dennis Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Swor motioned that the application for 316 North 38th Avenue West be approved.

Commissioner Makowsky seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Swor motioned that the application for 4320 West 7th Street be approved. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which as approved 5-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of West Cleveland Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to prohibit parking on West Cleveland Street from a point directly west of the Kenwood Village development to the western terminus of the street. He stated that residents in the area had expressed concerns regarding the number of vehicles in the area at certain times of day and that the residents noted parking issues such as vehicles consistently parking too close to driveways, turning around in driveways, driving onto front yards, and driving too fast. Mr. Bauer stated that a subsequent study had revealed that the roadway was quite narrow and that safety concerns could arise from vehicles violating certain parking ordinances. He stated that the original desire of some of the residents had been to create a special residential parking zone but that several City of Duluth divisions had recommended the parking prohibition instead. Mr. Bauer reported that the parking division had conducted a survey of area stakeholders and that of the 11 surveys he had received back, seven were in favor of the change and four were opposed. Commissioner Liljeblad motioned that the proposal be approved with the proviso that the area be monitored by parking staff to gauge effectiveness following the change. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to convert two meter stalls on the zero block of East 1st Street to a loading zone

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert the two westernmost meter stalls on the south side of the zero block of East 1st Street to a loading zone. He stated that the request had been generated by the building manager of Technology Village, who had stated that delivery vehicles commonly park in the alley between the Technology Village building and Technology Village ramp, constricting traffic flow. Mr. Bauer stated that the upcoming reconstruction of the phase two portion of Superior Street would limit the number of on-street loading zones, further supporting the proposed conversion. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Liljeblad seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to implement a ten-minute drop-off zone on Exeter Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to implement a ten-minute drop-off zone on Exeter Street. He stated that the item had originally been transmitted to the parking division as an on-street ADA zone request but that subsequent site visits and communications with the requesting party had resulted in the drop-off zone proposal. He stated that the resident would not be using the zone for her own parking but rather as a pick-up/drop-off zone for Stride buses, from whom she often requested service. Mr. Bauer stated that, since the area featured heavy use of on-street parking and the Stride stops would occur two to three times per week, the drop-off zone would allow for more consistent use of on-street parking. Commissioner Liljeblad stated that even the drop-off zone could impose a hardship on the other area residents due to the heavy on-street parking demand. Commission President Andy Goldfine concurred, stating that the new zone could constitute an unreasonable accommodation for one party and that for short-term pickups the Stride bus could utilize the adjacent driving lane. Commissioner Liljeblad noted that the drop-off zone would only be available for use – and only needed – on weeks during which the alternate side parking configuration allowed parking on the resident's side of the street. Commissioner Goldfine suggested that the parking division consider the possibility of adding signage on either side of the resident's street access sidewalk to protect that area and allow the resident to pass to the bus parked on the street. Commissioner Jensen motioned that the item be tabled for further discussion following further research and communication with the resident. Commissioner Liljeblad seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of 43rd Avenue West

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to prohibit parking on 43rd Avenue West adjacent to the Qwik Trip site and between Grand Avenue and the western access lane to the site. He stated that the manager of the location had stated that delivery drivers consistently experienced challenges with turning radii and sightlines while entering and exiting the area due to parked vehicles. Mr. Bauer noted that there appeared to be ample parking for area residents in addition to the area within the proposed parking prohibition. Commissioner Liljeblad indicated that he had visited the site and concurred with the recommendation. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to shorten a drop-off zone on South Lake Avenue to accommodate a bus stop

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to shorten the drop-off zone adjacent to the Red Lobster site on South Lake Avenue to accommodate a Duluth Transit Authority bus stop. He stated that the request to study the item had been generated by both the City of Duluth Community Planning Division and the DTA. He stated that a site visit had revealed the presence of two existing bus stops, both occupied by parking meters, and an unusually long drop-off zone adjacent to the meters that did not seem to be utilized to its full extent. He stated that the proposal would consolidate the two existing stops into one more effective one. Commissioner Jensen stated that buses stop in the area every thirty minutes during busy times and also noted that vehicles can legally park in bus stops unless otherwise signed. Commissioner Liljeblad motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Jensen seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Off-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided a proposal to establish rates and event modes for seasonal Canal Park parking lots. He stated that there were no proposed changes from the rates and modes from the previous year. Commissioner Makowsky motioned that the recommended rates and modes be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking operations. He stated that Superior Street redevelopment construction on the phase two section had begun and that the meters in the area had been removed. He stated that following completion, the area would feature the same type of multi-space meters employed in the recently-completed phase one section of the street. He also stated that he had recently communicated with the Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services and that both parties had agreed that the parking division would resume the issuance of motor vehicle expired tabs tickets after an approximately eight-month-long moratorium, as the MNLARS registration system had largely resolved the backlog of tab renewal requests.

Meeting adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Services Manager