



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Antonio Davis
- Mike Mayou
- Andrew Paszak
- Branden Robinson, Vice President
- Brandon Van Tassel
- Robert Woods, President
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Cindy Voigt, City Engineer – City of Duluth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the December 2024 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commission Vice President Branden Robinson motioned that the minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Brandon Van Tassel seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Antonio Davis had not yet arrived).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments during the initial Public Comments period.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE A LOADING ZONE ON 3RD AVENUE WEST

Mr. Bauer introduced a proposal to remove a loading zone on the east side of 3rd Avenue West, between Michigan Street and Superior Street. He stated that the request to remove the zone had been generated by City Engineer Cindy Voigt, in relation to an upcoming road project that would eliminate the curblane indentation that accommodates the zone. Ms. Voigt stated that she had consulted with the adjacent business, Wells Fargo, who had been the primary user of the zone, and that they did not oppose the change. Mr. Bauer stated that parking staff would monitor the area following the change, if approved, to determine whether further parking adjustments are needed related to Wells Fargo's needs. Commissioner Robinson motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Mike Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Assistant Duluth Area Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that Technology Village Ramp's and Medical District Ramp's new access control systems were scheduled to be activated on January 13, with Technology Village Ramp's locked hours to initially occur from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with the option to adjust these hours as needed. He stated that Medical District Ramp's system would be active at all times. Mr. Bauer stated that the initial plan was to align Technology Village Ramp's active hours with those of the integrated Skywalk system's but that input from area stakeholders prompted the City to further restrict active hours. Mr. Bauer provided an update on parking facility security, describing the contents of a slideshow that illustrated both a recent increase in security incidents at Technology Village Ramp and Medical District Ramp and low, stable numbers of incidents at Hart District Ramp. He stated that the numbers indicated a predicted upward trend in incidents related to seasonal colder weather at Technology Village and Medical District Ramps but also illustrated the effectiveness of the access control system at Hart Ramp, which was cause for optimism regarding its success at the other two ramps once activated. Commissioner Mayou inquired into some of the customer service details related to the new systems and access to the facilities. Mr. Helmin described the parking operator's procedures regarding public access for those whose vehicles were parking in the facilities. Both Mr. Helmin and Mr. Bauer emphasized the ability to make future adjustments to the new systems to accommodate evolving customer needs. Commissioner Robinson inquired whether Civic Center Ramp would also receive a similar access control system installation. Mr. Bauer stated that discussions had occurred between the City and the building owner and that, though the funding source would differ from that of the City's other facilities, it was likely that such an installation would occur in the future.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that there were no significant updates regarding on-street parking.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

Commissioner Robinson asked for an update regarding the December 2024 meeting's discussion of pavement markings related to public roadway fire lanes. Mr. Bauer stated that he had been in discussion with the City's engineering division on whether red paint could be used to denote fire lanes but had not yet determined a definitive answer. He stated that he would continue to work toward one.