



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, September 5, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Guests Present

- Dawn Buck, President – Park Point Community Club
- James Gittemeier, Senior Transportation Planner – City of Duluth
- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Pat Sterner, Board Chair – Minnesota Point 50
- Alice Tibbetts, Co-Founder – We Walk Duluth
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the August 2025 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Brandon Van Tassel motioned that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Robert Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dawn Buck, Park Point Community Club President, and Pat Sterns, Minnesota Point 50 Board Chair, presented several concerns regarding the seasonal recreational lane on South Lake Avenue and Minnesota Avenue on Park Point. Ms. Buck described the need for improved signage and presented some suggestions. She also suggested public art on the pavement as a possible educational tool. Mr. Bauer stated that there may be possibilities regarding the use of public art but that care should be taken so that parkers were not further confused. City of Duluth Senior Transportation Planner James Gittemeier noted that public art had been utilized in previous projects in Lincoln Park. Commissioner Terese Tomanek inquired whether the hotels in the area had adequate off-street parking. Mr. Bauer stated that it appeared to the Parking Services Division that, in most cases, there was adequate off-street parking to serve the hotels' needs. Commissioner Woods noted that in the past there had been more stop signs along Minnesota Avenue, which had a traffic-calming effect that enhanced safety. He stated that signage, while possibly helpful, would not

likely cure the expressed concerns. Commissioner Antonio Davis suggested shuttling and “park-and-ride” options as ways to mitigate traffic congestion on Minnesota Avenue. Mr. Bauer suggested further consideration of development of a protected bicycle lane in place of the recreational lane, noting its pros and cons as well as the likely funding challenges. Commissioner Mike Mayou suggested the seasonal use of delineators to help protect the recreational lane. Commissioner Mayou motioned that the Commission continue to work with City and community partners toward creative solutions for the safety concerns. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Duluth resident and We Walk Duluth Co-Founder Alice Tibbetts spoke to the Commission on the topic of bicycle lane safety. She suggested that further funding be made available for improvements to the city’s bicycle infrastructure, including bicycle parking. Mr. Bauer stated that the Parking Services Division did not have funding specifically committed to bicycle infrastructure at present but that further discussion was welcome. He stated that the Parking Commission’s role with regard to bicycle infrastructure was somewhat limited, however.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUESTS

Mr. Bauer presented three on-street accessible parking zone requests for approval. He stated he had visited the sites and that the City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities had been consulted. He stated that two of the requests, one for 902 North 6th Avenue East and another for 521 East 10th Street, related to the City’s ongoing 6th Avenue East redevelopment project. He stated that the City’s project engineer had identified those accessible parking needs as part of the public communications element of the project and that the Parking Services Division had employed temporary accessible parking zone signage to serve those residents’ needs until project completion, with the intent to propose permanent installation afterward. He also described a third request unrelated to the project, for 4428 West 8th Street. Mr. Bauer recommended approval of all three requests. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 902 North 6th Avenue East be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 4428 West 8th Street be approved. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Commissioner Van Tassel motioned that the request for 521 East 10th Street be approved. Commissioner Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Assistant Operations Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that planned structural repairs in the parking facilities was nearly complete and provided details on the progress at each facility. Mr. Bauer, responding to a request from the Commission, stated that he would provide an update on parking facility security and call for service in the October meeting.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that the Parking Services Division was beginning preparations for the upcoming winter season with regard to the City’s Snow Emergency procedures. He stated that the Division’s proposed 2026 budget was nearly complete and would likely be presented to the Commission in the scheduled

October meeting. He indicated that he had successfully balanced the proposed budget and that the Division had largely caught up on deferred parking facility maintenance, which resulted in lower proposed expenses in that category for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments.