



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, August 1, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Members Absent

- Antonio Davis

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Bryn Pollard, Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Alex Popp, Senior Engineer – City of Duluth
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the July 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 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during the initial public comments period.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUESTS

Mr. Bauer presented two 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 provided details on the site visits and recommended approval of both requests. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 110 South 67th Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Andrew Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 7 East 6th Street be approved. Commissioner Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE PARKING ON A PORTION OF WEST

COLLEGE STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to reconfigure parking on a portion of West College Street. City of Duluth Senior Engineer Alex Popp described the proposal, which would remove parking from West College Street from Junction Avenue to University Drive to accommodate a future turn lane. Commission President Branden Robinson inquired into the timeline for the proposed change. Mr. Popp stated that the timeline was still unclear. Commissioner Terese Tomanek inquired whether there were any driveways in the area of the proposed change. Mr. Popp stated there were none. Mr. Bauer stated that ample off-street parking appeared to be available to the area residents. Commissioner Woods inquired whether the area homeowners had been consulted. Mr. Popp stated that an informational public meeting would occur in September. Commissioner Woods inquired whether a vote could be delayed until after the public meeting had occurred. Mr. Popp stated that a delay in a vote would also delay the larger project. Commissioner Paszak motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE PARKING ON A PORTION OF THE 2400 BLOCK OF EAST SUPERIOR STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to reconfigure parking on the 2400 block of East Superior Street to align with a change of public use in the area. He stated that the new owner of the former Duluth Women's Club building was converting the property into a bed-and-breakfast and had reduced need for the large accessible parking zone adjacent to the building. Mr. Bauer stated that he and the owner had jointly developed a configuration that placed one-stall accessible parking zones on both sides of the street, freeing up the rest of the area for regular parking that would follow the 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. alternate side parking configuration in the area. Commissioner Van Tassel motioned that the proposed configuration be approved. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE PARKING ON THE 400 BLOCK OF WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to reconfigure parking on the upper side of the 400 West block of Michigan Street. He stated that the redeveloper of the Ordean building had requested changes to the on-street parking configuration, which had featured one non-time-limited accessible parking zone, one four-hour limited accessible zone, and single-stall meters. He stated that the request was to change the two existing accessible zones to a two-stall loading zone and to convert a meter on the west end of the block to a four-hour accessible zone. Commissioner Tomanek noted that the move of the accessible zone to the west could also serve the needs of the adjacent Duluth Depot. Commissioner Tomanek motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TWO METERED STALLS ON THE 300

BLOCK OF WEST MICHIGAN STREET TO A TEN-MINUTE DROP-OFF ZONE

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert two on-street meter stalls to a ten-minute drop-off zone. He stated that the request had been generated by Harbor City International School, who had indicated that a new school program for younger children would begin for the upcoming school year. He stated that, because the program involved younger children, more of them would be dropped off by parents than the older kids. Commissioner Woods motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE CUL DE SAC TERMINUS OF EISCHEN COURT

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to prohibit parking on a new cul de sac at the terminus is Eischen Court. He stated that the request had been generated by the City's Streets Maintenance Division, who express concern for clear passage of service and emergency vehicles in the area due to the tight turn radius. He stated that the nearby apartment building appeared to have ample parking for residents, both on a surface lot and underground. Commissioner Tomanek motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Bryn Pollard and Assistant Operations Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. Mr. Pollard stated that there was a short delay in repairs to Hart District Ramp that would delay the reopening of the currently-closed portion of the facility. He stated that the recent Tall Ships downtown Duluth event had produced less parking business than had been anticipated. Mr. Bauer provided an update on the opening of the new Hillside Public Ramp, which was scheduled for early September.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that there were no significant updates regarding on-street parking. Commissioner Woods stated that he had noticed Duluth Transit Authority bus stop signage that may not be compliant with standards. Mr. Bauer stated that he would forward this concern to the appropriate parties.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments. Commissioner Paszak stated that he had heard lots of positive community feedback on the City's recent parking configuration changes to the 300 West block of 1st Street, which had been previously approved by the Commission. Commissioner Woods expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Tomanek for her willingness to serve on the Commission once again.