

Duluth Parking Commission
Thirty-Ninth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, November 6, 2015
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Craig Chilcote, Vice President
- Andy Goldfine
- Linda Krug
- Andy McDonald
- Chad Smith
- Karin Swor
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Steve LaFlamme, President

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Austin Brandon, Stakeholder – Chester Way
- John Clark, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Will LaFons, Student – University of Minnesota Duluth
- Patrick Sheahan, Developer – BlueStone Commons
- Scott Sutherland, Resident – Morris Thomas Road

Approval of 8/28/15 meeting minutes

Commissioner Linda Krug motioned to approve the Duluth Parking Commission August 2015 meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Implementation of a two-hour time limit on a portion of East Clover Street

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy reintroduced a proposal that originally had been discussed in the August 2015 Duluth Parking Commission meeting to implement a two-hour time limit on East Clover Street from Woodland Avenue to East 8th Street. City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer stated that he and the developer of the adjacent BlueStone Commons project had agreed to present a modified version of the proposal, featuring added parameters of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the two-hour time limit to address the concerns of the neighboring residents, who had opposed the proposed time limit. Patrick Sheahan, a member of the BlueStone Commons development team, described the reasons for the proposed change and indicated that students from the nearby University of Minnesota Duluth currently tend to park on the street for extended periods of time, making the spaces unavailable for customers of the BlueStone Commons businesses. Mr. Kennedy stated that this portion of Clover Street once had featured south-sided parking but that this configuration had been changed to north-sided parking to reduce the encroachment of parked vehicles on residential driveways bordering the south side of the street and to provide more available parking space due to the presence of fewer driveways on the north side. Mr. Bauer stated that an updated survey showed that the residents still objected to the proposed change. Commissioner Krug motioned that the proposal to add a two-hour time limit to the referenced portion of Clover Street between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. be approved. Commissioner Andy McDonald seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to grant Chester Way residents an allowance to park within the Lyons Street residential parking zone

Mr. Kennedy described a request to grant residents of two properties on Chester Way an allowance to park within the adjacent Lyons Street portion of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) residential permit parking zone. Mr. Bauer explained that this proposal had emerged due to concerns by the owner and residents of the duplexes at 135/137 and 145/147 Chester Way that there was an insufficient amount of parking at or near the properties for their needs. He stated that parking had been prohibited on Chester Way in 2014 due to its unusually narrow width and

that Lyons Street had been added to the UMD residential permit parking zone effective in autumn of 2015. Mr. Bauer stated that applicants for residential zone permits must live at an address on the street on which they plan to park and stated that this proposal is to allow residents at the referenced addresses to qualify for residential zone permits even though they do not meet this requirement. He stated that the developer of the site had constructed a total of 14 parking spaces in two off-street lots but that the properties house 16 residents and have additional needs for guest parking. Mr. Bauer stated that a site visit had revealed that the driveway serving the eastern lot featured a very steep grade that may be difficult for vehicles to use in snowy or icy conditions. Mr. Kennedy observed that it was not clear how many residential zone permits might be needed. Austin Brandon, the boyfriend of one of the residents, described the parking challenges of the residents and asked that 12 residential zone permits be granted. He also requested that the specification that the permits be used within 500 feet of the residence be extended to 600 feet or that parking be allowed for the permit holders from Chester Way to Kenwood Avenue, due to the steep grade of a hill on Lyons Street and the predicted use of Lyons Street by the Chester Way residents. Commissioner Krug stated that she was in favor of granting an accommodation but was disappointed that the developer of the site had not better planned for the parking needs of the residents. Commissioner Andy Goldfine stated that the city should consider redeveloping Chester Way to include a paved, wider street and on-street parking due to the new needs of residents of the area. Commissioner Krug stated that she felt that 12 permits were too many to allow. Commission Vice President Craig Chilcote motioned to table the proposal so that the parking division could further study the number of permits needed. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Addition of a “No Parking Here to Driveway” sign on 88th Avenue West

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to add a “No Parking Here to Driveway” sign on 88th Avenue West, adjacent to Spirit Lake Manor. Mr. Bauer stated that he had received a request from Commissioner Swor to install the sign 41 feet north of the southern driveway to Spirit Lake Manor, due to difficulty drivers were experiencing seeing traffic oncoming from the north when exiting from Spirit Lake Manor onto 88th Avenue West. Mr. Bauer stated that a stakeholder survey had been conducted and that the results were 22-1 in favor of the proposed sign. He noted that the city code specifies that vehicles must park at least 7 feet from driveway cuts but that the parking division was in support of this proposal due to the safety concerns shared by the residents of Spirit Lake Manor, the primary stakeholders in the matter. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Swor abstaining).

Conversion of 28th Avenue West from Superior Street to 1st Street from no parking 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. to alternate side parking

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert 28th Avenue West from Superior Street to 1st Street from no parking 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. to alternate side parking. Mr. Bauer described the proposal, which would align the block with the alternate side configuration of the blocks to the north and provide overnight parking for residents of the neighboring apartment buildings. He stated that the proposal had been brought to the parking division by Duluth Police Department Sergeant Mike Erickson, who had expressed concern in allowing both-sided parking on the block due to its relatively narrow street width. Mr. Bauer presented the results of a survey he had conducted of the stakeholders on the block, which showed a unanimous 4-0 response in favor of the proposed change. Commissioner McDonald motioned that the proposal to convert the block to alternate side parking be approved. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Proposal to adjust the monthly parking rate at Technology Village Ramp

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to adjust the monthly parking rate at Technology Village Ramp. He stated that the facility frequently reaches full capacity on weekdays and does not feature an optimal level of turnover of parking spaces. Mr. Kennedy stated that the current monthly rates are \$75.00 (including tax) for unreserved parking contracts and \$90.00 (including tax) for reserved contracts and observed that an increase in the range of \$20.00 might be required to encourage a meaningful number of parkers to consider other parking and transportation options. He stated that the purpose of this proposal was not to generate increased revenue but rather to encourage monthly parkers to utilize other facilities, thereby freeing up spaces for transient parking at Technology Village Ramp. Interstate Parking Duluth Operations Manager John Clark stated that there currently were 44 people on the waiting list for monthly contracts at the facility, which translated into an approximate six-month wait. He also stated that he has received complaints from the nearby P.S. Rudie Medical Clinic that daily parking spaces frequently are not available due to the often-full status of the ramp. Mr. Bauer noted that monthly rates for the most in-demand facilities in downtown Minneapolis can vary from \$250.00 to \$300.00. Commissioner McDonald motioned that the monthly rates at Technology Village Ramp be increased by \$25.00 each. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Renaming of East Superior Street Public Ramp

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to rename East Superior Street Public Ramp. He stated that the city council recently had approved the designation of a portion of East Superior Street as the Historic Arts and Theatre District (the “HART” District) and that signage indicating this rebranding soon would be installed on a stairway façade at

this ramp. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal to rename East Superior Street Public Ramp the Historic Arts and Theatre District Ramp (or abbreviated as “HART District Ramp”) be approved as presented. Commissioner Chilcote seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

On-street ADA signage request

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to approve an on-street ADA signage request for the Iron Mug Coffee House at 1096 88th Avenue West. Mr. Bauer explained that he had met with the owner of the establishment, who had indicated that he had installed ADA-accessible ramps to the sidewalk adjacent to his business and now wished to better accommodate his customers by having a designated ADA parking space in the area. Mr. Bauer had identified a location for the space directly in front of the business and adjacent to the ADA ramps to the sidewalk. Commissioner Chilcote motioned that the proposal to add the ADA space be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

Resident request to review the parking configuration on a portion of Morris Thomas Road

Scott Sutherland, a resident at 2433 Morris Thomas Road, presented a proposal to change the parking configuration on Morris Thomas Road from Piedmont Avenue to Chambersburg Avenue. He stated that he had conducted a survey of fellow residents of this portion of the road and that the vast majority of them were in favor of converting the current alternate side configuration to a both-sided or north-side-only configuration, with the former being the preferred configuration. Mr. Sutherland stated that the reason for the proposed change was to enhance safety. He stated that vehicles tend to slide to the right while driving down the hill that this portion of the road features and that, while he knew of no reported accidents resulting from this, he felt it was unsafe if vehicles parked on the right (south) side of the road. Mr. Sutherland stated that he recently had received a ticket for being parked on the wrong side of the road. The parking commission and the parking division staff agreed to further study this proposal and to provide a follow-up report in the December 2015 parking commission meeting.

2016 parking fund budget discussion

Mr. Bauer briefly described the proposed 2016 parking fund budget, which had not yet been approved by city administration. He noted that the proposed budget featured an overall increase in revenue and an overall decrease in expenses and stated that the budget would be presented in further detail in the next parking commission meeting.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy, CAPP, CPP
Parking Commission Secretary