



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, March 7, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Members Absent

- Antonio Davis

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the February 2025 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. He noted that it had been brought to his attention that there were two errors in the original minutes draft: U.S. Highway 53 had been referred to as "I-35," and Commissioner Van Tassel's first name was incorrect in one reference. Commissioner Robert Woods motioned that the minutes be approved with the two corrections. Commissioner Mike Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Assistant Duluth Area Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update regarding off-street parking operations. He stated that security incidents within City parking facilities continued to decrease following implementation of the ramps' new access control systems, adding that additional fencing was needed at Medical District Ramp to enhance security. Mr. Bauer stated that he was working to identify funding for the additional fencing. Mr. Helmin stated that construction on the new Hillside Public Ramp was due to be completed in July 2025. He reiterated that Technology Village Ramp was currently in a mode of alignment with Skywalk hours of operation and therefore not completely secure but that he had noted an increase in the number of positive public comments regarding facility security. Mr. Helmin stated that plans

were underway to repair lighting at both Civic Center Ramp and Medical District Ramp. Mr. Bauer provided a report on parking facilities calls for service and security, noting that there was evidence of substantial improvement in recent reported incident statistics for Technology Village Ramp and Medical District Ramp following implementation of their new perimeter security systems. Commissioner Woods inquired into the sources of calls for service at the ramps. Mr. Bauer stated that calls for service originate from a variety of sources, including the public and from routine or incidental patrols. Commissioner Mayou inquired whether security staffing levels would be reduced following implementation of the new systems. Mr. Bauer stated that some reduction had already occurred but that the City was taking a careful, measured approach to such reductions, balancing incident reports with budgetary concerns to continue on a positive path forward. Commission President Branden Robinson inquired whether negative Skywalk activity adjacent to the parking facilities had increased following the systems implementations. Mr. Bauer stated that there was, indeed, likely some level of increase in such activity related to the conversions. Commissioner Mayou stated that the City Council had recently authorized a six-month Skywalk study that could further inform future adjustments.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that there were no significant updates regarding on-street parking. Commissioner Woods inquired into the timing of a proposal to convert off-street parking lots in Canal Park to year-round fee enforcement. Mr. Bauer stated that such a proposal would likely be presented to the Commission in the coming months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments.