

**Duluth Parking Commission
Thirty-Fourth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, April 10, 2015
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall**

Members Present

- Craig Chilcote, Vice President
- Andy Goldfine
- Steve LaFlamme, President
- Andy McDonald
- John Simpson
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Linda Krug

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Jorden Klovstad, Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company

Approval of 2/6/15 meeting minutes

Commissioner Andy Goldfine motioned to approve the minutes without change. Commission Vice President Craig Chilcote seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager John Clark described the upcoming rollout of an online account management system for monthly parkers. He stated that the system will be available to the public quite soon and that testing has shown that the system is functioning well. City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer and Mr. Clark presented the Duluth Economic Development Authority-approved 2015 daily and seasonal contract parking rates for DEDA's off-street locations in Canal Park, and they presented a proposal to adjust the Lake Place Lot seasonal contract rate from \$160.00 in 2014 to a new rate of \$200.00, which still would cover five months of parking. Mr. Clark described that the rate increase was proposed due to increased demand generated by the recent opening of the Endion Station Public House and the upcoming possible addition of housing in the area. Commissioner John Simpson motioned that the Lake Place Lot seasonal contract rate be approved as proposed. Commissioner Andy McDonald seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Prohibition of parking on a portion of Central Avenue

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy introduced a proposal to prohibit parking on a portion of Central Avenue near Laura MacArthur Elementary School. Mr. Bauer stated that the proposal had been brought to the City of Duluth Parking Division by Kerry Leider, property and risk manager for the Duluth public school district. He stated that Mr. Leider had expressed safety concerns regarding the visibility of school crossing guards to motorists on Central Avenue as they approach Elinor Street. To enhance sightlines, Mr. Leider had proposed that parking be prohibited on a 177-foot portion of the west side of Central Avenue immediately north of Elinor Street, and Mr. Bauer described the photographs and a diagram provided by Mr. Leider to the commissioners to illustrate the concern and proposed solution. Mr. Bauer also presented a map created by the City of Duluth Parking Division that illustrated the proposal, and he added that a site survey he had conducted had indicated that the nearby residents would not be negatively affected by the proposed change because they currently have access to adequate on-street and off-street parking. Commissioner McDonald motioned that the proposal to prohibit parking on this portion of Central Avenue be approved as presented. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Conversion of a portion of West 12th Street to south-sided parking only

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert a portion of West 12th Street immediately to the east of North 2nd Avenue West from alternate side parking to south-sided parking only. Mr. Bauer described the results of a site visit, which revealed a street width of 23 to 27 feet on the applicable portion of West 12th Street. Mr. Bauer met with Paul Helstrom, the homeowner who initially had proposed the conversion; Mr. Helstrom explained that vehicles often enter this portion of West 12th Street from North 2nd Avenue West at high speeds, and he was concerned that it could be unsafe to allow parking on the north side of 12th Street due to the resulting restricted sightlines between drivers on 2nd Avenue West and pedestrians crossing 12th Street. Mr. Bauer noted that he had consulted with City of Duluth Maintenance Operations Manager Kelly Fleissner regarding the proposal and that Mr. Fleissner agreed with the recommendation. Commission President Steve LaFlamme inquired whether further development of the area to the north and west of the site of the proposed change was predicted. Mr. Bauer stated that he was not aware of any further development plans and added that a utility box and a trash dumpster are located on the north side of 12th Street, limiting available space for future development as well as for on-street parking during odd-side weeks. Commissioner McDonald added that there likely is no current water or sewer connection that extends beyond the area, limiting the potential for further development. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Conversion of a portion of South 23rd Avenue East to west-sided parking only

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert South 23rd Avenue East between Water Street and its southern terminus from alternate side parking to west-sided parking only. Mr. Bauer described the results of a site visit, which revealed a roadway width of 20 to 28 feet and an unusual, uneven landscaping layout of the east side of the avenue that makes parking on that side of the street difficult. He noted that the residential streets east of the area are part of a private development and not available for public parking. Mr. Bauer stated that he had consulted with Mr. Fleissner regarding this proposal and that Mr. Fleissner supported the conversion to west-sided parking only. Commissioner Goldfine asked Mr. Bauer who had initiated this proposal to change the configuration. Mr. Bauer replied that the request was brought to the parking division by Rhonda Nelson of Edmunds Company, partly in response to a ticket one of her tenants on the west side of 23rd Avenue East had received for an alternate side parking violation. Commissioner McDonald added that there is expected to be an upcoming expansion of the Duluth Lakewalk above and below this block but that he did not anticipate that it would affect the proposed parking configuration change. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner Chilcote seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Prohibition of overnight parking and addition of meters to 12th Avenue East between Superior Street and 1st Street

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert the east side of 12th Avenue East between Superior Street and 1st Street from unregulated parking to two-hour limit parking with a 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. prohibition on parking. Mr. Bauer explained that he had gathered feedback from the adjacent businesses regarding an initial proposal to install single-space parking meters on the block, and he reported that, while the other businesses surveyed did not oppose the change, the site manager of Walgreens strongly opposed installing parking meters on the block, fearing that the meters would steer business to CVS, his competitor across 12th Avenue from Walgreens. Mr. Bauer stated that the manager was, however, agreeable to implementing a two-hour time limit with a 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. ban on parking. Mr. Bauer noted that, during the site visit, he had observed regular turnover of vehicles on the west side of the block, where a two-hour time limit currently is in place, but that the east side of the block, which is currently unregulated, was parked to maximum capacity, with no visible turnover. Commissioner Simpson stated that he would prefer that single-space parking meters be installed on both sides of the street, due to the fact that the surrounding area is heavily populated with commercial properties. He added that he would like to see an additional portion of 1st Street, near the area of the current proposal, also be reconfigured with single-space parking meters in the future. Commissioner Simpson proposed an amendment to the initial proposal, specifying that both sides of 12th Avenue East from Superior Street to 1st Street be converted to single-space meters matching the fee structure and time limit of the meters in the nearby area and that parking be prohibited on both sides from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that this amended proposal be approved, and Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was adopted 5-0.

Conversion of two single-space meters on 4th Avenue West to police parking only and two police parking spaces on Michigan Street to single-space meters

Mr. Kennedy introduced a proposal to convert two single-space meters on 4th Avenue West by City Hall to police parking spaces and two police parking spaces on the 200 block of West Michigan Street to single-space meters that match the fee structure and time limit of the meters in the nearby area. Mr. Bauer explained that, due to the recent move to City Hall of a Duluth Police Department substation that had been located on Michigan Street, more police parking was needed near City Hall and the need for police parking on Michigan Street had been eliminated. Mr. Bauer described the details of the proposal, which involved relocating the existing city vehicle parking zone on 4th Avenue West to the area currently governed by two single-space meters to the south and designating the zone currently signed as city vehicle parking as police vehicle parking. He noted that the current police vehicle parking zone to the north of the #2 Alley would be retained, resulting in a net increase of two police parking spaces and the elimination of two single-space meters. Mr. Bauer provided a brief history of the parking configuration on this section of 4th Avenue

West, noting that the current configuration had been implemented in conjunction with the police department move from City Hall to North Arlington Avenue and in response to the consequent lesser need for on-street police parking. Mr. Bauer stated that the elimination of the police parking zone and associated implementation of two single-space meters on the 200 block of West Michigan Street would result in an overall balance of metered parking spaces in the combined proposal and that the Michigan Street businesses, particularly R.T. Quinlan's Saloon, would benefit from the additional public parking spaces. He added that he had surveyed the organizations in the commercial building abutting 4th Avenue West and encountered no opposition to the proposed change to the avenue. Commissioner LaFlamme noted that future addition of businesses inside the building may result in the necessity of future review and possible reconfiguration of the area but said that he agreed with the proposal for now. Commissioners McDonald and Simpson concurred with this sentiment. Commissioner Simpson motioned that the proposal to reconfigure the referenced portion of 4th Avenue West be approved as presented by the parking division. Commissioner LaFlamme seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Commissioner Simpson motioned that the proposal to convert the police parking zone on Michigan Street to two metered spaces be approved as presented. Commissioner LaFlamme seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

On-street ADA signage requests

Mr. Kennedy introduced the subject of pending on-street ADA signage requests. Mr. Bauer provided details and addresses of five requests by residents for on-street ADA signage near their properties, all of which were recommended for approval by the City of Duluth Traffic Engineering Division. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the five requests be approved. Commissioner Chilcote seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer provided an on-street parking update. He stated that four new T2 Systems Luke II multi-space pay stations, like those currently in use on the 300 block of West Superior Street and at most off-street parking lots, will be installed on Canal Park Drive prior to the Canal Park fee enforcement season. Mr. Bauer also reported that he and City of Duluth Project Engineer Greg Stoewer recently had visited with the resident of 6209 Nicollet Street to discuss the plans for the upcoming Grand Avenue redevelopment project, and Mr. Bauer reported that the resident was thankful for the accommodations that were approved by the parking commission and for the informational follow-up from City of Duluth staff.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee update

Mr. Kennedy provided a summary of the 3/30/15 Downtown Parking Advisory Committee meeting and also described a 3/24/15 parking and transportation public forum held at the downtown Holiday Inn, during which the city's parking and planning divisions provided presentations on the plan to offer complimentary Saturday on-street parking (with enforced time limits), enhancements that have been made in recent years to the Duluth public parking system, upcoming parking technology enhancements, and downtown bikeways planning. Mr. Kennedy stated that strong interest was expressed during the DPAC meeting for increased enforcement of parking time limits downtown, particularly on Superior Street, and he described the measures the parking division thus far has taken in response to this request.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy, CAPP, CPP
Parking Commission Secretary