

**Duluth Parking Commission  
Forty-Eighth Meeting  
7:30 a.m. Friday, November 4, 2016  
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall**

**Members Present**

- Andy Goldfine
- Steve LaFlamme
- Andy McDonald, President
- Chad Smith
- Jessica Sterle
- Karin Swor

**Members Absent**

- Howie Hanson, Vice President

**Guests Present**

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Matthew Kennedy, former Parking Manager – City of Duluth

**Approval of 9/2/16 minutes**

Commissioner Jessica Sterle motioned to approve the 9/2/16 parking commission meeting minutes without change. Commissioner Karin Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0 (Commissioner Steve LaFlamme had not yet arrived).

**Proposal to convert one single-space meter on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East to a ten-minute drop-off zone**

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer described a proposal to convert one single-space meter on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East to a ten-minute drop-off zone. Mr. Bauer stated that the request was generated by the new Blind Pig restaurant, which had recently replaced Tycoon's Alehouse. He stated that the purpose of the zone would be to provide a short-term parking option for restaurant take-out order guests, as well as others with similar needs in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that an in-person survey of area stakeholders had been completed and that no opposition to the proposed change had been noted. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

**Proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, near the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated that the proposal was designed to address two concerns, one related to safety for pedestrians and drivers crossing 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and the other to provide enough room for Duluth Transit Authority busses to access the bus stop in the area. Mr. Bauer stated that he had fielded concerns from pedestrians that the sightlines at the intersection should be extended for safety and that the DTA had specified a 60-foot minimum distance to accommodate their busses at the bus stop, which currently featured only about a ten-foot setback. Mr. Bauer stated that the current proposal was to extend the setback from the intersection to 60 feet. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

## **Proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to prohibit parking near the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He stated that a study had previously been performed by the City of Duluth Traffic Engineering Division in response to concerns about the safety of the intersection as pedestrians and vehicles cross 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. Mr. Bauer stated that a hedge at the southwest corner of the intersection, combined with vehicles parked up to 20 feet from the intersection, could present concerns with adequate sightlines for safe passage through the intersection and turns onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and that the engineering division had recommended adjusting the setback to 100 feet from the avenue to alleviate these concerns. Commissioner Sterle motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Goldfine seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

## **Proposal to convert two single-space meters to ADA parking stalls on West Michigan Street**

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to convert two single-space meters on the 400 West block of Michigan Street to ADA parking stalls. He stated that the request had come from Arc Northland, in the adjacent Ordean Building, which serves the needs of many citizens who have accessibility concerns. Mr. Bauer stated that one of the factors in the request related to a vehicle that had frequently been observed parking for extended periods of time in the one current area ADA stall, which was legal but removed the space from public availability most days. Commissioner Andy Goldfine stated that he had observed this issue throughout the area and requested that the parking division study possibilities for adding time limits on ADA stalls. Commissioner Goldfine motioned that the proposal to convert the two single-space meters to ADA stalls be approved, with the provision that the parking division study and report on the possibility of adding time limits to ADA stalls. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

## **On-Street ADA signage request**

Mr. Bauer presented a request from the resident at 121 North 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to add on-street ADA signage in front of her home. Mr. Bauer stated that he had conducted a site visit and supported the request. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned that the request be approved. Commissioner Swor seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

## **Discussion on first-hour-free parking at municipal ramps**

Mr. Bauer and Interstate Parking Company Duluth Area Manager John Clark described several possible first-hour-free rate plans for Technology Village Ramp, Hart District Ramp, Medical District Ramp, and 410 West Public Ramp. Mr. Bauer stated that the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee had expressed interest in first-hour-free options, originally to offset possible negative effects of Superior Street reconstruction but later to promote business in general in the downtown area. He stated that several rate structure scenarios had been discussed in the most recent DPAC meeting and that the group had agreed that a revenue-neutral plan might be the best option. Mr. Bauer stated that he would soon meet with city administration to gather further input on the concepts and would continue to work toward a possible proposal with the applicable parties.

## **Presentation and discussion of the proposed 2017 parking fund budget**

Mr. Bauer presented the proposed 2017 parking fund budget and provided the commission with a copy of the proposal package.

## **Former City of Duluth Parking Manager comments**

Commissioner McDonald invited former City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy, who had attended the meeting as a member of the public, to speak to the commission. Mr. Kennedy stated that it had been a pleasure to have worked with the commission during his time with the city. He stated that his position had been eliminated and that he had not resigned. Commissioner McDonald thanked Mr. Kennedy for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors, as did Mr. Bauer.

## **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP  
Parking Operations Specialist