



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, February 7, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Members Absent

- Andrew Paszak

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Alex Popp, Project Engineer – City of Duluth
- Bob Rodenwald – Duluth resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the January 2025 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commission Vice President Branden Robinson motioned that the minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Mike Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duluth resident Bob Rodenwald expressed frustration to the Commission that he had been repeatedly ticketed for parking violations near his residence on 76th Avenue West. Commission President Robert Woods stated that it appeared the street was not unlike others in Duluth and that therefore parking Ordinances and Statutes would apply. Mr. Bauer described the history of complaints and enforcement in the area, noting that City streets maintenance crews had reported illegal parking in the area that caused operations barriers. Mr. Bauer stated that while enforcement staff were on the scene, they noted various other types of parking violations and issued citations for some of them. He stated that the street also served as access to a City trailhead and was frequently used by the public. Mr. Bauer stated that Mr. Rodenwald had previously been granted ticket dismissals but that the issues had continued, despite multiple unsuccessful ticket disputes and two unsuccessful administrative appeals Mr. Rodenwald had initiated. Mr. Bauer stated that unless the ongoing issues were resolved, further ticketing was likely.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUEST

Mr. Bauer introduced a proposal to install an accessible parking zone at 4017 West 5th Street. He stated that he had visited the site and that the zone appeared to be needed by the resident. He stated that he had consulted with the City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities and that they were supportive of installation of the zone. Commissioner Woods motioned that the zone installation be approved. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE TWO PARKING STALLS ON THE 2600 BLOCK OF WEST SUPERIOR STREET FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Mr. Bauer introduced a proposal to designate two parking stalls within the upcoming West Superior Street redevelopment project scope as electric vehicle charging stalls. City of Duluth Project Engineer Alex Popp provided further detail, stating that the inclusion of electric vehicle charging technology was a requirement of the funding package for the project and that the proposed location was strategically chosen for maximum potential benefit for EV users and minimum negative impact on the area's existing stakeholders. Mr. Bauer expressed support for the proposal. Commissioner Robinson inquired whether the proposed stalls were part of a larger plan for the area. Mr. Popp stated that they were not part of a larger plan at that time. Commissioner Robinson inquired whether the area under the US-53 highway overpass had been considered for electric vehicle installation. Mr. Popp replied that the concept had been discussed but was not planned at that time. Commissioner Robinson motioned that the proposal to designate two new EV stalls on the 2600 block of West Superior Street be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0 (Commissioner Brandon Van Tassel abstaining).

PROPOSAL TO NAME NEW CITY-OWNED MEDICAL DISTRICT PARKING FACILITY "HILLSIDE PUBLIC PARKING RAMP"

Mr. Bauer proposed naming the new Essentia-area City-owned parking facility, schedule to open in June 2025, "Hillside Public Ramp." He stated that extensive internal discussions had resulted in the naming recommendation, which he stated would serve to identify the ramp as being located "to the hillside" of the existing "Medical District Ramp," which could aid in wayfinding. Mr. Bauer stated that the City and Interstate Parking were in the process of developing updated public ramp identification signage that would be placed on the exterior of each facility and that the proposed name, if approved, would be a part of that package. Commissioner Woods motioned that the proposed facility name be approved. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION OFFICERS

Mr. Bauer introduced the topic of the annual election of Duluth Parking

Commission officers, stating that February of each year was the month in which this was to occur. He provided information on the procedure, term limits, and which Commissioners were allowed to serve in these capacities. Commissioner Woods motioned that Commissioner Robinson succeed him as President of the Commission. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Mayou motioned that Commissioner Van Tassel be elected to serve as the Commission's Vice President for the coming year. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Mr. Bauer thanked outgoing President Woods for his excellent service leading the Commission and welcomed the newly-elected officers.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Assistant Duluth Area Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update regarding off-street parking operations. He stated that the access control systems at Technology Village Ramp and Medical District Ramp were now active and that they were so far highly effective. Mr. Bauer stated that Duluth Police Department calls-for-service numbers supported the initial effectiveness of the systems and added that deep-cleaning and painting would soon occur at the facilities, similar to the process following the previous implementation of the access control system at HART District Ramp. Commissioner Mayou expressed his gratitude for the attention paid to the adjustment Interstate had made to the access system's lockdown hours to coincide with those of the public skywalk adjoining the facility. Mr. Bauer provided an update on 2025 planned structural maintenance for all parking facilities, noting that all recommended yearly maintenance was fully-funded and that public requests for bids would be posted soon. Commissioner Robinson inquired into the revenue impacts Interstate had seen in relation to the implementation of the access control systems. Mr. Helmin stated that revenues were gradually recovering following the conversions. Commissioner Robinson inquired into how many parkers utilize the online payment application versus the onsite payment kiosks. Mr. Helmin stated that it averaged about 50% for each but could vary greatly and that he expected online usage to increase. Mr. Bauer stated that the City planned to implement the Park Duluth mobile application in the parking facilities in the future but were waiting until public usage of the facilities' new systems stabilized in an effort to avoid public confusion with too many new payment methods at once. He stated that the City planned future public communications to promote the changes and the success of the new ramp systems.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that though an official Snow Emergency utilizing the revised system had thus far that season not been declared, Streets and Parking staff had made several key adjustments in their operations in preparation for one in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments.