



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, December 2, 2022

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Linda Krug
- Noland Makowsky, President
- Terese Tomanek
- Em Westerlund, Vice President
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Robert Woods

Guests Present

- Ari Eilola, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of November 2022 meeting minutes

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the minutes of the November 2022 meeting of the Duluth Parking Commission. Commissioner Linda Krug motioned that the minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Terese Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUEST

On-street ADA accessible parking zone request

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to implement an on-street ADA accessible parking zone at 112 South 15th Avenue East. Mr. Bauer stated that he had visited the site and communicated with the requesting party. He recommended approval of the request. Commissioner Tomanek motioned that the request be approved. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A ONE-STALL LOADING ZONE ON 3RD AVENUE WEST NEAR 1ST STREET

Proposal to establish a one-stall loading zone on 3rd Avenue West near 1st Street
Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert a single-stall metered space at the northeast corner of 3rd Avenue West and 1st Street to a loading zone. He stated that the building owner had requested the zone to serve the needs of a new tenant in the Mesabe Building, which is directly adjacent to the proposed zone. Commission Vice President Em Westerlund motioned that the proposal be

approved. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT A METERED STALL TO A TEN-MINUTE DROP-OFF ZONE AT 24 WEST 1ST STREET

Proposal to convert a metered stall to a ten-minute drop-off zone at 24 West 1st Street

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to convert a metered parking stall at 24 West 1st Street to a ten-minute drop-off zone. He stated that the proposal was partly related to a larger parking configuration change in the area, which would be presented as the next agenda item, but that the zone would have been needed regardless. Mr. Bauer stated that the zone would serve the pick-up needs of customers of Cantonese House, as well as those of other parkers. Commissioner Tomanek motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT PARKING AT PALMER HOUSE LOT AND ON PORTIONS OF 1ST STREET AND 1ST AVENUE WEST DURING CERTAIN HOURS

Proposal to prohibit parking at Palmer House Lot and on portions of 1st Street and 1st Avenue West during certain hours

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to permanently prohibit parking from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on 1st Street between 2nd Avenue West and Lake Avenue and on 1st Avenue West from Superior Street to 2nd Street. He stated that the Duluth Police Department had developed the prohibition plan in response to the large number of calls for service associated with the bars in the area, as well as frequent obstruction of the traffic lanes, both of which resulted in significant public safety concerns. Mr. Bauer stated that the parking prohibition had been tested for the past several weeks and that data illustrated its effectiveness in addressing the problems. He stated that similar parking prohibitions had been implemented in other urban areas and had been largely successful. He provided a presentation to the Parking Commission that had been prepared by DPD staff that illustrated the plan's effectiveness. Mr. Bauer added that DPD staff had engaged in a significant amount of interaction with area stakeholders and that further public notification would not be necessary should the proposal be approved. Commissioner Westerlund expressed concern with the overnight closure of the Palmer House Lot associated with the proposal. Mr. Bauer stated that the closure would only apply to the public hourly parking area on the top level and that the lower level's monthly parkers would not be affected. Commissioner Westerlund motioned that the proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

2023 PARKING FUND BUDGET PROPOSAL

2023 Parking Fund budget proposal

Mr. Bauer presented the proposed 2023 Parking Fund budget, which had originally been presented in the November Parking Commission meeting but had been tabled for further discussion regarding public parking rates and the annual

transfer from the Parking Fund to the City's General Fund. Commissioner Krug motioned that the proposal be taken off the table and placed on the current agenda for discussion. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0. Commissioner Tomanek stated that she had discussed the possibility of a reduction in the annual General Fund transfer with City Administration but had not been able to advance the discussion. She recommended further study into this possibility. Commissioner Krug motioned that the 2023 Parking Fund budget proposal be approved as presented. Commissioner Westerlund seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

2023 PARKING RATES PROPOSAL

2023 parking rates package proposal

Mr. Bauer presented the Parking Services Division's recommended 2023 public parking rate structure, which included increases to public parking rates at most off-street parking ramps and lots but none for on-street parking. He stated that recommended rates had been adjusted following further public discussion after the proposal had been tabled in the November Parking Commission meeting. Commissioner Krug motioned that the proposal be taken off the table and placed on the current agenda for discussion. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0. Commissioner Tomanek motioned that the revised parking rates package, which included the recent adjustments to the proposal, be approved. Commissioner Westerlund seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

2023 DULUTH PARKING COMMISSION MEETING DATES PROPOSAL

2023 Duluth Parking Commission meeting dates proposal

Mr. Bauer presented the proposed 2023 Duluth Parking Commission meeting dates, all of which occur on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Commissioner Krug motioned that the proposed schedule be approved. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Ari Eilola stated that he estimated there would be a 10% increase in snow removal costs in the coming winter season. He noted that there had been a recent increase in the number of security incidents in the parking facilities which he associated with the recent winter weather. Mr. Eilola added that a change in Interstate's contracted security firm had recently been made in an effort to better address the ramp security issues.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer stated preparations for possible Snow Emergency declarations during the upcoming winter season were complete. He added that a third mobile dispatch computer terminal had been added to the parking enforcement fleet, which would facilitate more effective parking enforcement during Snow Emergencies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments

There were no public comments.