

Duluth Parking Commission
Thirty-First Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, December 5, 2014
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Mary L. Cameron
- Andy Goldfine
- Linda Krug
- Steve LaFlamme, President
- John Simpson
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Craig Chilcote, Vice President
- Andy McDonald

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- Kirk Bratrud, Café Manager – At Sara's Table
- John Pierce, Chief Manager – Pierce & Piszczek Fine Pianos, LLC
- Joel Sipress, Councilor – City of Duluth

Approval of 11/7/14 meeting minutes

Commissioner Linda Krug motioned to approve the minutes without change. Commissioner John Simpson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to convert five single-space meters and one ADA space on the north side of the 400 block of East Superior Street to a 90-minute limit

City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer described a proposal to convert the five existing three-hour limit metered spaces on the north side of the 400 block of East Superior Street to a 90-minute limit, as well as convert one adjacent ADA space to a 90-minute limit. He noted that the request was generated by the Amendola Building management team, who stated that the needs of the building tenants have changed over time and that the three-hour time limit and one of the two existing ADA spaces no longer were needed. They were clear that they did not wish to change the existing rate structure for the meters, which is currently 45 minutes per quarter, just the time limit to encourage turnover of the spaces for the street-level businesses that will soon occupy the building.

Mr. Bauer stated that the new time limit was proposed to be 90 minutes, rather than the more common 80-minute limit, in order to align the time limit with the existing rate structure. City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy stated that there is a precedent for unusual time limits in a few areas of town and noted several examples. Mr. Bauer described a map provided to the commissioners illustrating the proposed changes. Commissioner Simpson motioned to approve the proposed changes as described. Commission President Steve LaFlamme seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. (This motion was taken together with the item below.)

Proposal to convert a single-space meter on the south side of the 400 block of East Superior Street to a loading zone

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to convert a metered space on the south side of the 400 block of East Superior Street to a loading zone. He stated that the request was generated by John Pierce, chief manager of Pierce & Piszczek Fine Pianos, LLC, in relation to the impending opening of his street-level store in the Amendola Building. Mr. Bauer stated that he had conducted a site visit with Mr. Pierce and found the proposed space to be the best available option for Mr. Pierce's ongoing loading needs. Mr. Bauer noted that he had discussed this proposal with the Amendola Building management team and a manager of the nearby Voyageur Lakewalk Inn, both of whom indicated their support of the proposal. As a consolidated item with the proposal detailed above, Commissioner Simpson motioned to approve the proposed conversion of the space to a loading zone. Commissioner LaFlamme seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to adjust signage on 8th Street near 19th Avenue East

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to adjust signage near the intersection of 8th Street and 19th Avenue East. He provided a map to the commissioners that illustrated the changes. Mr. Bauer described the first of these, a proposed conversion of the current both-sided one hour parking configuration on 8th Street near At Sara's Table to both-sided parking with a 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. alternate side parking specification from 19th Avenue East to a certain point east of the restaurant. Mr. Bauer stated that, due to a last-minute clarification by Kirk Bratrud, café manager of At Sara's Table, the end location of this configuration and associated location of proposed signage specifying the start of 24/7 alternate side parking had yet to be determined. Mr. Bauer also described proposed changes to signs on the north side of 8th Street west of 19th Avenue East, which included the relocation of a "1 HR Parking 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Begin" sign and addition of a "1 HR Parking 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. End" sign farther down the block to indicate more clearly the area of that configuration. Mr. Bauer also described proposed signage adjustments on the south side of 8th Street west of 19th Avenue East that better identify the start and end of the existing loading zone at that location. He noted that he had spoken with the owners of both businesses adjacent to the loading zone and that both were in agreement with the proposed changes to the signage. Mr. Bauer offered as options to the commission either to vote on the signage package as illustrated on the map (and then potentially alter the location of the endpoint of the alternate side parking 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. zone at a later time) or to separate that set of signs from the package and vote on it at the next commission meeting. The commissioners opted to vote on the package as presented and revisit the zone endpoint later. Commissioner LaFlamme motioned to approve the signage recommendations. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0.

Proposal to convert grace periods for on-street single-space meters from ten to five minutes

Mr. Bauer described a proposal to convert grace periods for on-street single-space meters from ten minutes to five minutes. He stated that this was a continuation of the discussion from the November 2014 Duluth Parking Commission meeting, during which a proposal to eliminate the ten-minute grace periods was rejected by the commission. He stated that during that meeting the commissioners noted that the grace periods would be eliminated by the future implementation of multi-space metering technology and that two of the commissioners at that meeting had voiced support for a five-minute grace period. Mr. Kennedy noted that a decrease in the length of the grace period would help decrease the disparity between the few (primarily downtown workers) who are aware of this grace period and the many (including most Duluthians and tourists) who have no knowledge of it. Mr. Bauer recommended the decrease to a five-minute grace period as a transitional step toward the elimination of the grace period that would occur with the installation of multi-space pay stations. Commissioner LaFlamme recommended that this change, if approved, be communicated to area businesses prior to implementation. Commissioners Simpson and Krug stated that they supported this change as a transitional step. Commissioner Simpson motioned to approve the change as proposed. Commissioner Krug seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. Commissioner Mary L. Cameron then took leave of the meeting, resulting in a loss of quorum.

Report on Lower Kenwood survey results and preliminary recommendations

Mr. Bauer described, block-by-block, the results of a survey that was mailed to residents of the area between the current UMD resident permit parking zone and the College of St. Scholastica campus, and he reported the numbers of residents who have signed petitions in support of the creation of residential permit parking zones on their blocks. He noted that the survey results indicated strong support of the creation of resident-only zones on both the 000 and 100 blocks of Lyons Street, the 000 block of Niagara Street, and the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Missouri Avenue, all of which the parking division recommended including in an extension of the current UMD zone. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Bauer stated that, despite the fact that few vehicles park on these two blocks of Missouri Avenue, they were being included in the recommendation because a strong majority of the adjoining residents support joining the UMD zone. Mr. Bauer also noted that although support for a conversion to alternate side parking on Lyons Street was relatively split, the accessibility issues experienced by one resident on the street made the conversion inadvisable at that time. Mr. Bauer described the recommendation of the parking services division to prohibit parking on both sides of Lyons Street from Missouri Avenue to Mississippi Avenue and on both sides of Missouri Avenue from Lyons Street to West College Street due to safety concerns related to street width and steep grade that had been expressed by area residents. He stated that the City of Duluth fire chief is in support of the Lyons Street proposal. Duluth City Councilor Joel Sipress spoke briefly and indicated his support of the parking division's recommendations, noting that the recent community forum had been successful and that the parking division's review and recommendation process had been thorough and well thought-out. Because the quorum was lost by this time, the Lower Kenwood analyses and recommendations presented by the parking division were for informational purposes only; Mr. Bauer stated that the package would be presented to the commission in the January meeting for discussion and a possible vote.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy
Parking Commission Secretary