



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, April 5, 2024

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

Guests Present

- Ari Eilola, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Andrew Paszak, Duluth resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the March 2024 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 4-0 (Commissioner Antonio Davis had not yet arrived).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments during the initial Public Comments period.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUESTS

Mr. Bauer presented one on-street accessible parking zone request for approval. He stated that he had visited the site and consulted with the applicant and recommended that the request be approved. Commission President Robert Woods motioned that the request, for 1711 East 6th Street, be approved. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0 (Commissioner Davis had not yet arrived).

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager Ari Eilola provided an update on off-street parking. He stated that preparations were underway for the 2024 Canal Park parking enforcement season and that seasonal cleaning and restriping would soon commence. As an update from the previous Commission meeting, he provided detail regarding the definition of “unusual behavior” on third-party security reports for the downtown parking ramps, stating that this was,

in almost all cases, “loitering.” He stated that in March 2024 the security firm reported 351 total incidents in the ramps, with an associated 19 calls to the Duluth Police Department for service. He stated that new roll-up access doors for Hart District Ramp would be installed by the following week. Mr. Bauer stated that approval of a project that would mitigate issues caused by pigeons in the parking facilities was nearing completion. He stated that approval would also soon be given for a project to install an improved door access system at Medical District Ramp that would aid those with accessibility challenges. He added that planning for the 2024 parking facilities maintenance package was nearly complete and that the associated project would begin in the spring. Commissioner Woods inquired into the status of the pending sales of Technology Village and Medical District Ramps. Mr. Bauer stated that there were no new developments of which he was aware. Commissioner Mayou inquired how the pending sales of the facilities would impact the City’s improvements projects. Mr. Bauer stated that the facilities would be maintained consistently whether or not the sales are completed. Commissioner Mayou inquired whether discussions had occurred between the parking operator and the Fond Du Lac Casino management team regarding the new access and revenue control systems at Hart District Ramp. Mr. Eilola stated that such communications had occurred and that a strong effort was being put forth to ensure that the casino’s customers would remain well-served.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking. In response to a request in the previous Parking Commission meeting, he provided a report on the total number of on-street accessible parking stalls in the city, stating that there were an estimated 316 total stalls. He stated that the public request in the previous Commission meeting to reduce the number of days per week during which an overnight parking restriction in the downtown bar district was in place was still being studied and that an update would be provided in the next Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional comments from the public.