



*****DRAFT*****

**Parking & Transportation Committee meeting minutes
March 22, 2017 at 9:00am
549 Congress St.**

Board members Present: Kim Volk (Aurora Financial), Phil Haughey (MHR Management) on phone, Sarah Martin (Bar of Chocolate Cafe), Anastasia Contos (Top of the Old Port Parking)

Others: John Peverada (City of Portland Parking Division), Todd Dominski (East Brown Cow), Kevin Thomas (Public Works Traffic), Sarah Cushman (Cushman Transportation Consulting)

Staff present: Taffy Eaton

Minute 1. Kim Volk opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

Minute 2. Review and approve February 22, 2017 minutes: Phil Haughey made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Anastasia Contos seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

- Minute 8 – Fisherman’s Wharf development. John said the developer will keep the current amount of parking.

Minute 3. Park & Work update: Kim thanked Amy for preparing the information. There are about 9 users of the program at this time. Some are long term users, others are newer.

- This committee might consider evaluating the Park & Work program similarly to the Park & Shop program. Presumably the users are using the program as it was intended, to subsidize low income wage earners parking costs.
 - There is some concern that some users might be handing stickers to their customers rather than their employees.
 - Is the program still warranted considering there are only 16 users? There is concern about low wage earners.
 - It is labor intensive for City staff and Portland Downtown staff and offered through the 2 City garages only. The City has no problems accepting stamps and City Manager Jon Jennings says the decision is Portland Downtown’s.
 - Could the City set up a monthly charge account for these people? No, it is not practical and would be difficult to implement.
 - Does it do good? Yes, for CVS and Longfellow Books employees.
 - Is it possible for Amy to do more research? Talk to the 9 high users and hear from them what the impact of the program is before deciding its’ fate.
 - Phil made a motion to move the Park & Work discussion to the April meeting giving Amy time to talk to the 9 high users and to review programs in other cities. Sarah Martin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
 - John has been to parking conferences and Portland’s Park & Work program is one of the best
 - When it was first introduced, many garages participated on certain days only, on slow parking days.

Minute 4. Update on technology upgrade by City of Portland Parking Department

- Passport will handle the online payment of tickets. Once the necessary ticket prefix codes are programmed, the technology will be launched. Two months later, the mobile payment options will begin.
- There is a strong possibility that meter rates will go up to \$1.25 per hour, implemented 7/1/17. There has been no increase since 2009. Incremental hourly costs need to be adjusted on the meters.

Minute 5. Review and make comments on draft of Fort Hill Parking Study for City:

Anastasia reviewed her attached comment summary. Megan Doane submitted comments also, which Kim will incorporate.

- John says the study was about what he expected.
- The outcome of the bus study by the City will determine the future use for some spaces on Congress St. Generally the buses now stop in the street and former bus stops will be converted to parking spaces. 15 minute meters are in place for quick deliveries. Traffic stopping behind buses is intentionally designed to slow traffic down.
- Anastasia spoke about a new downtown business that needs 120 monthly parking spaces and was having a hard time finding them. Supply is a big barrier. We need to keep the buffer number at each garage and lot so larger employers will move into the city.
- MIT tried giving all employees a T pass. They worked out a system with monthly parkers where they only pay on the days they use a space, encouraging employees to use alternate transportation but the employee knows that they have a space when they need it. The program was hard to manage.
- John said there are no parking requirements with new development (used Scales on Commercial St as an example) which creates issues. The City might organize a Transportation Management Authority (TMA) to address this situation.
- New garages are being designed with repurposing in mind.
- This study shows that monthly parking is at capacity, yet daily parking is available.
- Garage location is everything
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am is traditionally the highest use time in garages and lots
- Phil suggested that commercial real estate brokers are a source of parking availability. A tenant often wants a commitment from a garage that is the same as the lease term. That's not attractive for a lot owner.
- Parking garages rarely pay for themselves. Maintenance is a huge cost.
- Kim reminded those present that this committee is here to improve communication and work on a multi-modal plan. We are looking forward to informing people.
- Anastasia, Phil and Kim will coalesce comments and get back to Nell Donaldson right away. The City is getting ready to finalize the draft.
- Next month – Park & Work discussion, final draft of the first part of the parking study

Minute 6. Other business:

- Sarah Cushman asked about the status of the multi-modal RFP. It is being worked on.
- Kevin Thomas is waiting for the snow to melt so he can put up new signs
- Build Maine sponsorship opportunity packets are on the table. Portland Downtown has some money in our budget and might sponsor the event.
- Casey met with Don Shoup while in California.
- John gave an update of the MEREDA breakfast event

Next meeting: Wednesday April 26th at 9:00am

Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, Recorder