



Parking & Transportation Committee meeting minutes
June 28, 2017 at 9:00am
549 Congress St.

Board members Present: Kim Volk (Aurora Financial), Phil Haughey (MHR Management), Anastasia Contos (Top of the Old Port Parking) on phone, Mike McDonald (North River)

Others: John Peverada (City of Portland Parking Division), Joe Redmond (Joseph's), Megan Doane (Portland Stage), Dawn Tully (volunteer), Sue Kimble (Harbor Landing), John McDevitt (Harbor Landing), Kevin Thomas (City Traffic Division)

Staff present: Casey Gilbert, Taffy Eaton, Amy Geren

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

Minute 2. Review and approve May 24, 2017 minutes: Mike McDonald made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Phil Haughey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion:

- Casey Gilbert will follow-up with Portland Trails on the Gorham Corner project
- Megan Doane mentioned that meter use being expanded to 11:00pm would hurt Portland Stage

Minute 3. Park & Work update/Park & Shop suspension review: Kim

- The Portland Downtown Board of Directors has voted unanimously to uphold the suspension of the Park & Shop program, therefore cancelling it.
- The Park & Work program's mission is to provide the opportunity for businesses to subsidize the parking of their low-wage earning or part-time staff. One small business reported that downtown employees are parking on-street and taking up customer parking. The Park & Work program could be promoted to encourage employees who currently park on the street to make use of the two City garages. Amy has informed individuals who inquire about the program that the program is for minimum-wage and part-time workers, which has deterred some sales to businesses who may have been or intended to abuse the program.
- This committee agrees that we need to come up with new policies/requirements for the Park & Work program. The original parameters from 1992 will be reviewed and Amy will provide comparatives on minimum wage and other statistics to inform updates to the program.

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

- The City is proceeding with implementing the Passport hand-held technology program and it should be live at the end of July. John's office has weekly contact with Passport. They are still working on back-office software regarding how the Passport program will support the City's needs.
 - People will be able to pay for fines over the phone with complete security
 - No envelopes will be included with parking tickets
 - Businesses will be able to pay for their customers' meter parking with the Passport app
- A city-wide meter rate increase (\$1.25/hour, up from \$1.00/hr) goes into effect Saturday July 1st from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour. The meter rate increase was decided on during the City's budget process. 2009 was the

last time the meter rates were increased (\$0.75 to \$1.00). All municipal parking revenue goes to the general fund.

- Joe Redmond suggested demand based pricing would be a good idea at meters in the Old Port and parts of downtown. Burlington, VT has a similar program which is working well.
- Exchange St paving – wet weather in May delayed the paving project
- There are available monthly parking contracts for \$90.00 per month at the Chestnut Street garage

Minute 5. Status of the Fort Hill Parking Study for City:

Casey updated –

- The next draft of the study will be released for comment by Fort Hill on July 5th. Casey will circulate the draft study to members of the committee once it is available. The first draft of recommendations from our Committee were in line with what the City expected.
 - Kim added that Don Shoup's graduate students provided Portland Downtown with two reports, offering critiques of Fort Hill's analysis and data collection methodologies. Hopefully some of the critiques will be incorporated into the final draft from FHA.

Minute 6. Other business:

1. Kevin Thomas –
 - The city-wide street painting/stripping project has been delayed due to rainy weather. Due to budgeted increases, painting will occur twice a year. Painting during the day is more visible and the public appreciates that.
 - Kim asked whether John or Kevin are still getting complaints about the curb extensions that were installed over the past year. John Peverada is still hearing complaints.
2. Joe Redmond – Old Port/Commercial St parking concerns:
 - Joe feels the Old Port parking problems (perceived/real lack of supply and not enough on-street turnover) have increased.
 - Eight years ago, Joe was on this committee when they tried to get a letter out to business owners to encourage their employees to park outside of the Old Port during work hours because it creates a huge problem with available parking. Joe encourages this committee to keep going on the suggestions made in the Portland Downtown advocacy letter to the City.
 - Casey told the committee that Portland Downtown has accomplished 2 items in the letter - the parking study and entering into a partnership with the City to develop a marketing campaign focused on multi-modal transportation. We need to identify those who live in or near downtown and encourage them to use other modes of transportation. Phil said that alleviating the "I didn't know that" comments about available/affordable downtown parking is crucial.
 - Joe suggested requiring metered parking on Sunday also due to retailers and their employees parking for the entire day in one spot. John Peverada explained that less demand for parking was the reason the City originally made the decision to make street parking free on Sunday. Megan Doane said it would be a hardship to Portland Stage.
3. John McDevitt (resident at Harbor Landing, 269 Commercial St) wanted to attend this meeting to see what this committee is doing. He is finding parking more and more difficult in the area. It is hard to find long-term parking contracts in lots or garages.
 - John Peverada suggested
 - Angelo's Acres on Commercial St for \$5.00 per 24 hours. You can pay for 8 days at a time.
 - Contracting a space at the Fish Pier. The cost is \$100 per month (which you pay for at the Spring St garage) or \$8.00 per day.
4. Sue Kimble (resident at Harbor Landing, 269 Commercial St) reiterated that there is not much parking available near the building. Sue purchased a condo that did not come with an off-street parking spot and her tenants have a tough time finding a spot close by to her building. There is a small back lot that is first come, first served. She would like to see resident permit parking downtown (currently only on the West End and the East End). Sue asked about the parking lot near MEMIC because it seems empty some of the time. Mike

McDonald said he manages that lot and there are no available monthly spaces nor immediate plans for development.

5. John Peverada mentioned that the Rufus Deering project should provide one spot for each unit. However, there is concern that residents will have more than one car per unit which will affect parking on Commercial Street.
6. The Fisherman's Wharf project will build a parking garage to replace the lot it will be built on and no current parkers will be displaced.
7. Wex's move downtown has not been finalized – it will need a parking garage if they do move.
8. Casey mentioned Don Shoup's "parking benefit district" program. Proceeds from the program go towards various beautification projects and needs. Casey feels the Park & Shop program was such a program. The City manager would like to see more beautification downtown. If Park & Shop funds remain after paying for the parking study and the multi-modal marketing campaign, Casey suggests using them for hanging baskets and bench upgrades. Casey will come back with numbers and will look at Park & Shop and Park & Work available funds at the July meeting.
 - Phil voiced concern about keeping the beautification program sustainable – how will it be funded annually to ensure the viability of the program?
9. Kim mentioned that Don Shoup talked about how to make parking increases "invisible". Tourists would see the increase but residents and downtown workers would not. This idea of addressing the concerns of residents and low wage earning employees is included in the advocacy letter.
10. John McDevitt mentioned that there is a new City ordinance going into effect on January 1, 2018 banning short term rentals (less than 30 days) like AirBNB. Megan Doane thinks AirBNB owners might be able to register with the City and still have short-term AirBNB rentals. The Committee will follow up and see if there is any data on how AirBNB affects parking supply.

Next meeting: Wednesday July 26^h at 9:00am

Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, Recorder