



Parking & Transportation Committee meeting minutes
August 24, 2016 at 9:00am
549 Congress St.

Board members Present: Kim Volk (Aurora Financial), Phil Haughey (MHR Management), Mike McDonald (North River Co); Sarah Martin (Bar of Chocolate)

Others: Todd Dominsky (East Brown Cow), Kevin Thomas (City of Portland DPW, Traffic Division), Asher Chappell (Unified Parking Partners)

Staff present: Taffy Eaton, Amy Geren

Minute 1. Phil Haughey opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

Minute 2. Review and approve July 27, 2016 minutes: Kim made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sarah seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Minute 3. Park & Shop program suspension, update on signage:

- Amy is continuing to gather feedback about the program suspension and will present it at the September meeting.
- New Parking directional signs are up and in place throughout downtown. Kevin Thomas' crew is putting them up, thank you Kevin!
- We did a final email mid-August to remind the public that 8/31/16 is the final day for returning stamps for a refund.
- MHR Management and East Brown Cow (Fore Street garage) have had several companies contact them about parking validation programs to replace the Park & Shop program.
- The City of Portland has been working with individual businesses to set up validation programs as well.

Minute 4. Review response by the City to the Parking Advocacy Letter: Amy

1. Portland Downtown's Board of Directors voted unanimously to provide up to \$15,000 of its parking study implementation funds to the parking study component of the project.
2. Casey will continue to make sure Portland Downtown has a seat at the table.
3. Amy is applying for a matching grant of an additional \$15,000 in PEDPIP (Portland Economic Development Plan Implementation Program) funds to assure the results of the study will include the majority of Portland's peninsula, and that study findings will become a reality by reducing the amount of implementation funds reassigned to the study portion of the project.
4. Amy is also applying for a matching grant of an additional \$15,000 in PEDPIP funds for the marketing campaign to assure a larger reach.
5. Kim told the committee that Portland Downtown will withhold the \$10,000 so that it will be used for implementation of the Parking Study and that Portland Downtown will provide matching funds for the Marketing campaign (\$15,000) until the next fiscal year to be used in conjunction with the City's next fiscal year.

6. The City is hoping to do a marketing campaign on Multi-Modal options prior to the completion of the parking study. Amy is applying for PEDPIP funds to match Portland Downtown's commitment of \$15,000 for this campaign.

Minute 5. Other business –

- Kim noted that as Portland Downtown receives communication surrounding parking issues, Casey is steering them to the person at the City best suited to address the issue.
- Phil described the letter received at Portland Downtown from a Commercial Street resident who is having trouble finding parking close to her home. Due to health issues, she is limited in her ability to walk distances.
 - Asher mentioned that perhaps UPP can offer her a space in one of their garages for the remainder of her stay and her car rides to and from the garage. If Asher works out a solution, he will let this committee know.
 - Fore Street Garage has a nights and weekends program too, which is half the cost of monthly parking.
 - She might be able to get a resident sticker from the City.
 - Since she addressed her concerns to the Portland Downtown, we ought to formalize a response to her.
- Amy is receiving complaints about parking issues in the India Street neighborhood.
- Kim asked Kevin Thomas if there is anything with which this committee can help his department. Kevin informed this committee of:
 - Kevin's department (Traffic) does striping, puts up lights, banners, cameras for Portland Police Department and signs, among other things.
 - He has a staff of 6-7, down from 14 originally.
 - The City currently does not have a count of how many handicapped spots there are downtown. Amy made a note to add this to the Parking Study. John Peverada likely has this answer.
 - The public needs to be educated on the 4-hour free parking allowance with a handicapped placard.
- There was discussion surrounding food delivery trucks:
 - The City could work on restricting food deliveries to between 2am and 6am.
 - There also could be smaller vans coming into the city delivering only a few items, rather than 18 wheelers.
 - Restrict the times delivery trucks can be on certain streets, possibly, particularly in the Old Port, and businesses will be encouraged to change their receiving hours.
- Sandwich boards continue to be a hindrance to pedestrians and cars on the sidewalk edges on Commercial Street.
- There is a Code Enforcement crew which has staggered shifts. They work on housing and other items, also. There is supposed to be someone dedicated to Downtown, but the budgeted position does not seem to have been filled.

Next meeting: Wednesday September 28th, 9:00am

Phil adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, Recorder