

Approved
PARKING ADVISORY BOARD
February 9, 2009

Randy Hafer ✓
Scott Wetzel (esc.)
Don Olsen ✓
Leticia Moore ✓

Steve Bruggeman ✓
Bruce Simon ✓
Nick Blake ✓

NOTES:

The meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. by Randy Hafer. Others present were: Mike Mathew, Bruce McCandless, Wyeth Friday, Greg Kruger, Lisa Harmon, Chris Mallow and Kelly Cox.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

None to report.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Approve minutes from January meeting:

Don motioned to approve the minutes from the January 12th meeting. Nick seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Monthly Reports – January 2009:

Chris explained that the information for 10-hour meter permits was not available due to DBA Staff going on vacation. Bruce Simon asked why there was a difference between the total in cash sales and the total in park & shop totals. Chris explained that cash sales did not include park & shop validations and this would cause the difference between the cash sales and the park & shop totals. There were no further questions or concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

Handicapped Zone-time enforcement practices:

Chris did research with several cities around Montana but received most of his information from Ann Guest in Missoula; who is the head of the Parking Commission in Missoula and also sits as the Chairperson for the Northwest

Parking Association. Ann told Chris that she has done her own research on this subject and has found that most cities are moving towards the idea of regulating time limitations for handicap patrons but still allowing them to park for free. Disabled advocacy groups have stated to Ann that they wish to be treated the same as other patrons in regards to parking time limitations. Ann states that they have received no backlash from the disabled community in regards to regulating time zones and that it does appear to be a N.W. and possibly national trend to regulate handicap patrons in timed areas.

The Board asked Chris to monitor the actual number of patrons that are using the current privileges allotted handicap patrons in the downtown area for the next couple of months and see what actual numbers the Board is looking at to see if there is a problem or potential problem.

The question was raised if the downtown area was in ADA compliance with the number of handicapped spaces and accessibility requirements. It was found, during a D.O.J. audit, that the accessibility criteria was not up to ADA standards throughout downtown, but the Streets Department and the Traffic Engineer are aware of this and have been and will continue to work on correcting this issue. At this time Chris has not heard any feed back in regards to any of these issues from the handicap community.

Policy hand book:

Chris stated that he is still working on the introduction to the handbook and has a couple of people assisting him in regards to this. He has not received their responses as of yet but should have the policy hand book next meeting.

Map:

Chris has talked to Tom Tully and Tom says that Joe Karls is putting the finishing touches on the map and they hope to get it to us soon. Chris will check and see if he can have it by the next meeting.

Downtown Parking Study:

The first preliminary report is due to the City sometime during the 1st or 2nd week in February. This report will outline the work Rich & Associates did while here in December. It was asked that Chris add this sub category to each meeting until the study is complete. It was also asked if Chris had given a copy of the policies that were agreed upon to Rich and Associates, Chris stated they were.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion with Mike Mathew about transfer to General Fund:

It is Mike Mathew's recollection that during the 1980's there was a tax increment district in the downtown area. During this time, it was put into effect that the Parking Division would transfer 17% of the meter and ticket revenues, after expenses, to the general fund, to help offset the t.i.f. Mike states that it was his understanding that when the t.i.f. ended the Parking Division would no longer need to transfer the 17%. This proposal was put into effect by the finance manager at that time, Nate Tubergen. It is also Mike's recollection that the transfer stopped at some point but was then reinstated in 2001 with resolution 01-17659 section 6.

The resolution states; *"Effective July 1, 2001 all revenues from parking fines and parking meters shall be deposited in the Parking Enterprise Fund and parking enforcement costs will be paid from the Parking Enforcement Fund. The Parking Enterprise Fund will transfer to the city General Fund 17% of all revenues received by the fund."*

It further states, under Parking Budget Narrative for fiscal year 2002 in the last paragraph; *"Seventeen percent of Parking Enterprise Fund revenues will be transferred to the General Operating Fund to offset net revenues the General Fund lost from transferring parking meter revenues and expenditures to the enterprise fund. This transfer will be \$294,238 and is the major reason for the increase in expenditures. The other major increase is due to allocation of General Fund costs for services such as legal, administration, finance, ect. That cost allocation is proposed to be \$155,424, an increase over the FY 01 allocation of \$143,956. The large increase is due to costs not being allocated to General Fund departments, which the parking meter collection, maintenance and enforcement operation previously was included in."*

The parking board asked Bruce McCandless where they should go from here if they chose to bring this issue to the City Council. Bruce stated that it would probably be best presented by Staff during budget discussions on May 4th or 5th. The Board felt it was important to remind City Council that they are currently getting tax increment money, in the amount exceeding a half a million dollars, which they were not getting in FY '08. The Board believes those monies should more than cover the 17% that the Parking Board is asking to have back. Chris was asked to make a time line of this issue and get it to Randy a.s.a.p. Bruce Simon motioned that the Board recommends to City Council that the current practice of transferring \$233,308 to the general fund be discontinued. Steve seconded the motion and all members were in favor. The motion passed.

Talk with Wyeth Friday from Planning about B.I.R.D. re-zoning:

Big Sky Economic Development Authority also known as B.S.E.D.A. and the Billings Industrial Revitalization District or B.I.R.D are developing a Master Plan for the District located roughly between Downtown Billings and Metra Park and between the North Park Neighborhood and the Burlington Northern Railroad line. The B.S.E.D.A. is looking to develop and present land use and urban design

alternatives for the District. They are holding two public meetings, both at 5:00 p.m. at the Montana Pavilion at Metra Park. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th-and then based on community feedback; they will develop and present a preferred alternative for the District on Thursday, February 19th. These meetings will build on two previous community meetings and considerable analyses by the consulting team.

Wyeth Friday, the Planning Division Manager, was present at the P.A.B. to explain what these meetings were about and answer any questions the Board may have. One of the concerns the Board had was in regards to mandatory parking rules when a new business decided to inhabit an existing property, i.e. Mr. Thrifty, and what the current mandatory amount of parking spaces are needed. The Board believes it is important to have creative parking options for this area such as giving credit for on-street parking spaces or sharing spaces, in order to build and retain good density and to avoid a sprawled out area like the west end. The Board also believes that it is important to consider diagonal parking where possible. Additionally, the Board believes, the plans for this area need to look at tying in arterials with secondary streets when considering parking designs. Bruce motioned that the Board work towards creative parking solutions, specifically within the B.I.R.D. Don seconded the motion, all members were in favor and the motion passed.

Items to consider for next month's meeting:

Randy requested that the Board look into options for parking in the downtown area these ideas were:

- 1) mandatory street parking off set/shared parking
- 2) Allow on-street parking to count as part of mandatory limits
- 3) credit for bicycle and compact car spaces
- 4) diagonal parking
- 5) all new streets designed with mandatory on-street parking
- 6) inter-connected grid of streets
- 7) Minnesota Ave.

Bruce asked that the Board to look at the area of N. 36th St. where a 2-hour limit area was still in effect along with a 10-minute zone that is no longer needed. This area is located where Graphic Imprints use to be. He also suggested, for a future meeting, that the Board consider the ramifications of the patrons who currently park on the west end of the C.B.D. who will be moving to the 1st Interstate Center. Bruce believes that this move may greatly affect the dynamics of the west end.

Don would like the Board to readdress the security issues in the garages. Chris will be setting a meeting to speak with the business owners in the area around Park 2 garage in regards to starting some sort of shared security program and will get back to the Board with the information they have come up with.

DBP Report:

None to report.

DBA Report:

The DBA sold out of February 10-hour meter permits by the 6th of the month at the \$15 each price. They stated that they received no complaints in regards to the price increase. The DBA is asking that Staff and the Board look in to additional permits and 10-hour meters.

Informational Items:

Chris asked that the March meeting be changed as he and Kelly would not be available the 9th of March. The Board agreed that they did not want to skip a meeting and that they would change the meeting to March 2nd.

The new Building Services Worker is now on staff; his name is John Rodriguez and he is working his new schedule Monday-Thursday 3:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. John is a downtown resident and chooses to walk to work.

The new Downtown Officer, Shane Winden, has started his new job securing the Downtown corridor. Shane has stated to Chris that he will be making random checks of the Parking garages while on shift.

The Minnesota Ave. project is on its way to City Council and Randy is hoping that the plan will be put into effect by the end of this year.

Chris is currently working on a R.F.P. to select an architect to head the project of replacing the Park 1 elevator. Chris believes this project could take upwards of six months to complete. As part of this remodel the Parking Division will be moving all Handicapped spaces to the lowest floor to reasonably accommodate the handicapped patrons that frequent Park 1 garage. He believes this should keep the garage within A.D.A. compliance.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

