

PARKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

7:15 a.m.

Anoka Public Safety Center Training Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Batters, Chair
Pete Turok

Jim Neilson, Vice Chair
Steve Jenson

Gregory Bortnem
Borgie Bonthuis

Gary Fahnhorst
Bob Weil

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT: Phil Johanson, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Batters called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Pete Turok made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as written. Gregory Bortnem seconded that motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR PARKING CHANGE TO CITY HALL, RIVER PLAZA LOT

Chief Johanson introduced Manley Brahs who is a member of the Anoka Planning Commission. Mr. Brahs had sent an email to the City Manager requesting that the city examine the possibility of reserving some or all of the parking spaces in the upper City Hall parking lot (aka: River Plaza Lot). Mr. Brahs thanked the PAB for hearing his request. Mr. Brahs said that in March he had attended a planning commission meeting at City Hall and arrived to the City Hall lot at approximately 6:45 p.m. to find that all of the parking spaces in the upper City Hall lot were full. Mr. Brahs said that there are seven members on the planning commission and he did not believe that any of them had room to park in the upper City Hall lot. Mr. Brahs suggested to the PAB that they take a look at this issue and possibly reserve parking at the City Hall lot for city business only during the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Chief Johanson said that from a police enforcement perspective, it would be difficult to enforce parking signage that says "City Hall Business Only". The Chief said that parking enforcement officers would have great difficulty knowing if the occupants from an empty car parked in the City Hall Lot were actually doing business in City Hall or if they were doing business at Anoka Floral, the insurance business, or McGuillicuddy's on 1st Avenue.

PAB members told Mr. Brahs that there is also a parking lot on the east side of City Hall that then goes northward and turns into a dirt lot in which there are many parking spaces. Mr. Brahs said that is actually where he did park on the night that the front lot was full and that he parked in the lot east of City Hall, approximately even with the entrance to the parking ramp on 2nd Avenue. Several PAB members expressed concern with Mr. Brahs' proposal in that the upper City Hall main lot is also used by downtown businesses in the area as well as downtown apartment renters.

Mr. Brahs said that another suggestion he would have would be to reserve approximately 7-8 parking spaces on the west side of the City Hall lot directly against the City Hall building on weekdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. That way the parking needed for the downtown business area

would not be affected. Pete Turok said that the police department does not do enforcement during the evening hours so even if signage was put up saying "City Hall Business Only from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.", it would strictly have to be on an honor system since parking enforcement officers do not work during the evening hours. PAB members said that they believed businesses and apartments in the immediate area of this lot affected by the potential change should be notified so that they could also weigh in on what they thought of any potential change to the parking scheme in this upper City Hall lot.

Jim Nielson made a motion to table this item until next month so that the Parking Advisory Board could study it further. That motion was seconded by Gregory Bortnem and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. PARKING ENFORCEMENT STATS

Chief Johanson reviewed the summary of the overnight parking tickets issued for the month of March 2015. The Chief reported that there were 66 overnight parking tickets issued during the month of March.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two PAB members said that they believed that the crosswalk times going across Main Street at 2nd Avenue were too short. They believed that the times for allowing cars to travel east/west was too long of intervals and that pedestrians were being forced to wait for too long at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Main Street in order to cross Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregory Bortnem and seconded by Steve Jenson. It was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

Respectfully,

Chief Philip Johanson

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 7:15 a.m. at the Public Safety Training Room.