

PARKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
7:15 a.m.
Anoka Public Safety Center Training Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Batters, Chair	Jim Neilson, Vice Chair	Gregory Bortnem	Gary Fahnhorst
Pete Turok	Steve Jenson	Borgie Bonthuis	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bob Weil

STAFF PRESENT: Phil Johanson, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MAY 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Gary Fahnhorst made a motion to approve the May 2015 meeting minutes as written. Gregory Bortnem seconded that motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

OATH OF OFFICE

Chief Johanson reported that City Clerk Amy Oehlers told him that nobody's term on the board had expired, so nobody needed to take an Oath of Office this year.

ELECTION OF PAB OFFICERS

After discussion by the PAB, Pete Turok made a motion to nominate the current slate of officers, that being Jim Batters as the Chairperson of the PAB and Jim Neilson as the Vice Chair of the PAB. Chairperson Jim Batters asked the Board if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations brought forward. Gregory Bortnem seconded Pete Turok's motion to keep Jim Batters as the Chair and Jim Neilson as Vice Chair of the PAB. A vote was called and it passed by unanimous vote.

GOALS FOR 2016 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Members of the board unanimously decided that all of the 2015 goals had been met or were currently being worked on. Members of the board unanimously decided to keep all of the 2015 goals the same for the year 2016.

The 2016 goals are as follows:

1. Monitor and adjust permit-parking stalls and time limit parking stalls in the downtown area – to include the review of handicapped parking spaces in the downtown parking area.
2. Review parking changes in the area around the south central business district due to the reuse of the Sandburg building.

3. Monitor business changes and keep parking scheme updated to match business climate.
4. Assist city staff in getting empty permit parking stalls filled & leased.
5. Consider the study requests from citizens for parking changes and traffic control changes.
6. Monitor the intersection of Greenhaven Road and exit ramp from Highway 10 for the need of a traffic control device change.

A motion to approve the 2016 goals as stated in these minutes was made by Pete Turok and seconded by Gregory Bortnem. It was passed by unanimous vote.

CONSIDERATION OF A 4-WAY STOP AT GREENHAVEN ROAD AND HIGHWAY 10 NEAR THE HEALTHPARTNERS BUILDING – Discussion Requested by Steve Jenson and Jim Batters

Steve Jenson brought forward that he believes that the intersection of West Main Street and the exit ramp from Highway 10 and Jacob Lane can be a somewhat confusing intersection and wondered if a 4-way stop would be appropriate to make this intersection safer. Currently, the vehicles that exit from Highway 10 have a stop sign and Jacob Lane has a stop sign and West Main Street and Greenhaven Road have the right-a-way. Steve Jenson said that he believes that vehicles traveling eastbound from the golf course are sometimes confused as they enter that intersection, even though they do have the right-a-way.

Chief Johanson said that he had discussions with City Manager Greg Lee about this intersection because it was reconstructed back in 2012. The Chief reported that Greg Lee had worked with Dan Coyle from Kimley Horn and that a 4-way stop was evaluated back in 2012, but the east/west traffic on West Main Street did not have a high enough volume to justify a 4-way stop at this intersection. Greg Lee also said that the State of Minnesota did not approve a 4-way stop at this intersection since part of the intersection is the exit ramp from Highway 10, they would also have input into the decision of making that a 4-way stop.

Board member Jim Neilson said that he is a club member at Greenhaven and travels in and out of Greenhaven regularly during the summer months and he does not believe a 4-way stop is needed at this intersection. Jim Neilson said he does not believe the intersection is confusing and asked everybody on the board if they had heard any complaints from HealthPartners. Jim Neilson said that HealthPartners is located right on the corner and if there was a problem with that intersection, they would be the ones most likely bringing forward a complaint of some type.

After discussion by the board, the decision was to take no action. Board Member Borgie Bonthuis said that if questions about this intersection came up in the future and some type of traffic study had to be done, would the City of Anoka do that study or would they have to hire an outside engineering firm to do the study. The Chief said that he would talk to Greg Lee to try to get that question answered for her.

REVIEW OF NUMBER OF PARKING PERMITS SOLD IN CITY LOTS – Requested by Board Member Steve Jenson

Chief Johanson distributed information that was provided by the City of Anoka Finance Department. The information covered how many parking permits had been sold by the quarter and the year in the Walker ramp and also the newer ramp on 2nd Avenue. After discussion by the PAB, they asked the Chief if he could get this same parking permit information about the city owned surface lots in the downtown area. Another question from PAB members was where are the discount lot parking permit holders going to park once the reconstruction of the discount parking lot northeast of City Hall takes place in the spring of 2016. The Chief said that he will talk to the finance department to get the surface lot stats and talk to the city manager about where the discount parking lot spaces will go during the construction in the spring.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Chief Johanson reviewed the summary of overnight parking tickets issued over the past seven years. The number of parking tickets issued in 2015 was consistent with parking tickets issued in the previous years. The PAB did not have any questions or comments on that item.

MISCELLANEOUS

Board Member Jim Batters requested that the universal blue parking circle parking sign (a circular sign with a P) be installed on the overhead traffic light arms at 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues. It should be noted that the PAB voted to install the circular blue parking signs back in 2014. The Chief explained that those signs were installed on the smaller posts on both sides of Main Street between 1st and 4th Avenues. PAB members said they would like to see these same blue signs also installed on the overhead traffic light arms. Jim Batters said that he had a request for “compact vehicles only” signs to be placed in the 2nd Avenue ramp on the end parking spaces so that it is easier to make the u-turn going up and down the parking ramp. This motion was made by Jim Batters and was seconded by Gregory Bortnem and passed by unanimous vote.

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 7:57 a.m.

Respectfully,

Chief Philip Johanson

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:15 a.m. at the Public Safety Training Room.