

PARKING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 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

GUESTS PRESENT: Manley Brahs

STAFF PRESENT: Phil Johanson, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Bob Weil made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as written. Gary Fahnhorst seconded that motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR PARKING CHANGE TO CITY HALL, RIVER PLAZA LOT

Chair Jim Batters re-introduced Manley Brahs who is a member of the Anoka Planning Commission and reminded the PAB about Mr. Brahs' request that the city examine the possibility of reserving some of the parking spaces in the upper City Hall parking lot, a.k.a. River Plaza Lot, for City business only. Chief Johanson told the board that he had distributed an information letter to the three property owners and the business owners within those buildings, directly across the street to the east of the City Hall parking lot. The Chief told the PAB that the letter advised them of the date of the PAB meeting, and that they could make comments at the meeting or by contacting him.

Chief Johanson said that he had received a voicemail and email from business owner Josh Halgrimson of Supply Chain Solutions Inc. whose business is located in the bank block building across from the City Hall lot in question. Mr. Halgrimson said that he had concerns that the City Hall parking lot was already very busy and that he had clients and suppliers make comments to him about how difficult it was to find parking outside of his business. Mr. Halgrimson said that he had concerns about the proposed change and he would not like to see the beginning of reserving parking spaces which would make the parking potentially more challenging in that area. Mr. Halgrimson said that he assumes that other tenants in his building would share the same concerns that he has.

Pete Turok said that he had received many phone calls from business owners in the businesses directly east of the City Hall lot and he said that they were not in support of making any changes to that lot because they already feel parking is at a premium in that lot and the requested changes would make it even more difficult for parking.

Mr. Brahs said that it sounded like the issue with parking was more during the day hours and he asked about reserving 7-8 spaces in the City Hall lot between 5-8 pm during the times when commission and city council meetings were taking place. There was lengthy discussion by the PAB after which Chairperson Jim Batters asked if anyone would like to make a motion. Borgie Bonthuis made a motion to reserve 8 parking spaces on the west side of the City Hall parking lot, Monday through Wednesday, 5-8 pm. Chairperson Jim Batters asked for a second to the motion and there was no second to the motion. After no further discussion, Chairperson Jim Batters said without a second there would be no vote on this issue. At that time, Jim Batters said that he believed there should be no changes made to the City Hall parking lot and that he wanted to make a motion that there would be no changes at the present time. At that time, Mr. Batters withdrew his motion and Gregory Bortnem carried forward his motion saying a motion of no changes to the City Hall parking lot at the present time. That motion was seconded by Bob Weil. It was brought to a vote with seven people voting yes, and one person voting no. The one person voting no was Borgie Bonthuis.

4. PARKING ENFORCEMENT STATS

Chief Johanson reviewed the summary of the overnight parking tickets issued for the month of April 2015. The Chief reported that there were 174 overnight parking tickets issued during the month of April.

MISCELLANEOUS

Board Member Bob Weil brought up that there was a deaf child sign still posted on Roosevelt Street in the Sunny Acres area and wondered if it still needed to be there and if the deaf child still lived in that neighborhood. Chief Johanson will be working with Bob Weil to find out if indeed there is a deaf child living on Roosevelt Street near that sign.

Bob Weil also brought up that the handicap parking space in Sunny Acres Park lot off of Cleveland Street is painted on the pavement, but does not have a handicap parking sign posted. Chief Johanson said that he would contact Public Works and request that they post the handicap parking sign at the handicap parking space in this park.

Chairperson Jim Batters said that normally the Parking Advisory Board does not meet in the month of July and wanted to entertain a motion to see if the board wanted to do that again this year. A motion was made by Pete Turok to have no PAB meeting in the month of July. That motion was seconded by Gregory Bortnem and passed by unanimous vote.

Board member Steve Jenson said that with the new Walker building being approved to be built on the old Riverway Clinic site, he said that he has some concerns about the parking availability in the area of 2nd and Monroe. There was discussion by the PAB and it was pointed out that the City/HRA has obtained some property as it becomes available in the area of 2nd Avenue and Monroe and 2nd Avenue and Madison Street, with the potential for future development, along with the study of future parking needs in that area. Steve Jenson said that he would like to make a motion that the PAB is concerned about parking availability in the area of the new Walker building at 2nd and Monroe Street and would like the city to consider future parking needs in that area. That motion was seconded by Jim Batters and it passed by unanimous vote.

Parking Advisory Minutes
May 20, 2015
Page 3

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Turok and seconded by Jim Neilson. It was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

Respectfully,

Chief Philip Johanson

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 7:15 a.m. at the Public Safety Training Room.