



**MANITOU SPRINGS
PARKING AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 14, 2013, 8:00 am**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Manitou Springs Parking Authority Board was held on Friday, June 14, 2013 in Council Chambers @ 606 Manitou Avenue. Chairman Yowell called the meeting to order at 8:07 am. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT: Chairman NEAL YOWELL
Board Member CURT HEIMSOTH
Board Member SPENCER WREN
Board Member BILL KOERNER
Board Member KARI KILROY (Arrived at 8:12 am)

ABSENT: Board Member MARJORIE WHITE (excused)

STAFF: Jack Benson, City Administrator
Dan Folke, Planning Director
Michelle Anthony, Planner
Joe Yeung, Standard Parking
Brian Scoggins, Standard Parking
Dave Gagnon, Standard Parking

GUESTS: Roger Miller, Ensign Engineering
Marian Yacko, Pilot Knob Resident
Marcy Morrison, iManitou
Council Liaison Coreen Toll

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) February 8, 2013

MOTION:

Chairman Yowell moved to approve the February 8th minutes as presented, noting there was no recording of the meeting or notes in order to fill in the missing information.

SECOND:

Mr. Wren seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 4-0.

2) February 22, 2013

MOTION:

Mr. Heimsoth moved to approve the February 22nd minutes as presented.

SECOND:

Mr. Wren seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 4-0.

3) March 8, 2013

MOTION:

Mr. Wren moved to approve the March minutes as presented.

SECOND:

Mr. Heimsoth seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 4-0.

4) April 5, 2013

MOTION:

Mr. Wren moved to approve the April minutes as presented.

SECOND:

Mr. Heimsoth seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 4-0.

III. OVERVIEW OF PAID PARKING IMPLEMENTATION:

- Recommendation regarding Summer enforcement hours
- Parking passes in the downtown for church and civic organizations
- Options for Employee/Merchant/Downtown Resident Parking Solutions
- Meter Token and Smart Card Programs
- Motorcycle Parking

Chairman Yowell reported the Metro District Board of Directors had unanimously approved the summer hours/fees as presented at their last meeting.

Ms. Kilroy arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Koerner stated the PAB had already recommended summer enforcement hours of 6 am to 6 pm, so he didn't see the need to take further action.

Chairman Yowell stated he supported keeping the enforcement program as it had been implemented, which he realized was different than what had been previously discussed and recommended.

Mr. Heimsoth stated most of the comments regarding the change to the enforcement schedule involved money and he was concerned that the public relations part needed to be addressed. He stated the extended hours were not better for the community; there was plenty of parking available in the evenings not being utilized and he supported keeping to the original program.

Mr. Wren stated he was disappointed the original recommendation was not followed, however agreed the current program should stay in place until this Fall/Winter. He felt the implementation was working for the tourists and it was too early in the program to start changing it. Mr. Wren stated he would like to see enforcement start at 6 am if and when any changes are made.

Mr. Koerner stated there was a lot of work and discussion that went into the original recommendation and it appeared no one paid attention to this. He felt the original hours were good and there should be some consistency between Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs.

Council Liaison Toll stated she wanted to hear how the change happened and she was disappointed the process had not been followed. She asked to hear from Standard Parking.

Mr. Leung apologized for the mistake and assured everyone present there had been no intent to circumvent the process. As well as he could determine the change was the result of informal conversations that ended being taken as direction.

Ms. Toll stated the 6 am to 6 pm schedule was what was vetted through the public process.

Ms. Kilroy stated it concerned her Manitou Springs was criticized for becoming Colorado Springs, but then there was the suggestion that we should emulate Colorado Springs.

Mr. Benson stated the paid parking was a congestion management program and suggested everyone recognize the original recommendation was a best effort, but this wasn't based on data. He noted the ordinance or resolution he anticipated would follow the PAB recommendation had not happened and now needed to be followed up with. Mr. Benson noted the program was supposed to address when congestion is a problem and that the City and Standard would be in a better position to determine this after an initial period of operation. Mr. Benson stated there had not been a great number of complaints about the hours.

Marian Yacko noted that to change now would create even more confusion about what hours were being enforced.

Jeff O'Brian, a business owner in Canon Avenue, stated he dealt frequently with people trying to use the kiosks and having problems. He stated there isn't a parking or traffic congestion problem now, and they don't have any foot traffic as well. He stated it was customers from Colorado Springs complaining, not tourists and they were being told their Colorado Springs customers would not be coming back. Mr. O'Brian stated there were tons of complaints, the shopkeepers were being blamed, and the paid parking was too aggressive.

Michelle O'Brian, owner of Silver Sparrow Beads on Canon, stated she wanted the program to work for everyone, but the merchants didn't have a say in the meters. She stated she wanted to speak the truth and understood some shop owners just wanted to park in front of their stores. However, she objected to being talked to like she was a child by a councilmember and the program was not working for the business community.

Mr. Heimsoth stated there was no congestion in the mornings and he felt the 6 am start of enforcement as had been recommended deterred commerce. He stated there needed to be a balance between paying for the program vs. being community friendly. Mr. Heimsoth stated the cost of changing the program should not be sufficient to deter making changes.

Mr. Miller stated some business owners didn't like the program, others did. He reported the downtown was experiencing a good rate of turnover and there was less traffic congestion on Manitou Avenue and Ruxton Avenue. Mr. Miller stated businesses would be benefitted at different times and a lot of what the City set out to do was happening.

Verna Are, owner of property on Canon Avenue, stated it was hard to disagree with a group of people who had obviously worked hard and comprehensively. She stated she had been in town since 1961 and there had been efforts since that time to have year-round business. Ms. Are stated the paid parking was not going to do it and she had seen meters come and go. She said it used to be businesses could afford to shut down in the off-season; however that wasn't the case any longer. Ms. Are felt it was on the wrong track to ignore Colorado Springs. She said tenants' business was falling off and customers were not coming back. She stated downtown Colorado Springs had meters and it was struggling.

Mr. Benson noted business in general was still rebounding from the effects of the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012 and the current fire in Black Forest was starting to effect visitorship. However, sales tax was up. He stated the parking fee was not onerous and there was not any credible evidence that paid parking drives out customers. Mr. Benson stated specific complaints and people should be dealt with, but the program should not be changed based on one individual.

Mr. Leung noted Standard Parking runs parking programs all over the country and that was why the City brought them into operate Manitou Springs' program. He stated there was reasoning why the program was designed the way it had been, noting 11% of the total parking instances were occurring in the 6-8 pm timeframe. Mr. Leung reported spaces in the downtown were turning over four times a day and Ruxton was turning over about three times a day. He advised this was a very small scope of time to use to evaluate the program and changing now would cause way more confusion. He asked the board to wait and see what was happening after the summer season. Mr. Leung noted this was a new program and any change now would be reactive and not necessarily based on sound information.

Mr. Wren stated there had been meetings in which paid parking was discussed since 2009 and he was surprised business owners would say they didn't know what was going on. He noted the City did need funds for desired improvements such as a new or improved parking lot and the shuttle. He felt the

parking programs were working for both the businesses and residents and the City was doing the best job it could while also managing the situation. Mr. Wren stated Standard had the knowledge and he was looking to them for a recommendation; he was more in favor of keeping the program as is.

Mr. Heimsoth stated he was against the paid parking going to 8 pm for several reasons. Restaurant and businesses employees would have to leave work to move their vehicles onto Manitou or Canon Avenues if paid parking ended at 6 pm, which he didn't believe they would do. The original proposal was for 6 pm and was intended to be more user friendly. Good will was worth a lot more than 11% of profit and 6 pm is what was agreed to. Mr. Heimsoth stated the timeframe could be changed back if 6 pm didn't work.

Mr. Folke stated the City had numerous studies advising that paid parking managed congestion and the City's most valued asset should be priced accordingly – the further out parking was, the less it should cost. He suggested as the demand lets up, then the supply could be opened up. However, he stated a period of time was needed in order to be able to evaluate the program and make sure the City was going to meet its obligations. He recommended the board give the current program more time.

Mr. Leung noted the reference to 11% was to indicate demand during that time period and stated that wait staff and employees will move their vehicles because that was what was happening before the paid parking was implemented.

Mr. Miller also noted the Incline hours of dawn to dusk impacted the timeframes for the program. He stated the PAB would throw away the progress that had been made if they made changes now.

Marian Yacko remarked it was too early to be reacting and that people adapt to change. She suggested a bigger advertising campaign for the shuttle.

Michelle O'Brian asked why not operate the shuttle between Manitou Springs and Old Colorado City as this would bring in revenue. She stated the programs needed to work for everyone.

MOTION:

Mr. Wren moved to recommend approval of the Paid Parking and Parking Permits Rates and Days/Times as shown on the chart provided to the Parking Authority Board, which keeps the program as currently being implemented.

SECOND:

Ms. Kilroy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 3-2.

Mr. Koerner stated the shuttle operation was a key element to the success of the parking program and the City had to find a way to make this work. He asked for an update on the ridership and stated he thought more publicity regarding what it is and where it goes was needed. He understood there were some folks saying the shuttle was not going to work.

Mr. Folke reported there had been approximately 3100 riders in the first 13 days; even assuming everyone who rode up to the Incline also rode down - which would mean they would be counted twice – this still meant about 1500 people and as many as 750 cars were kept from driving through downtown and searching for parking on Ruxton. Mr. Folke stated the value of this transit service was way beyond just ridership.

Mr. Benson noted there was additional promotion being done and route signs were being installed at the beginning and ending stops.

Ms. Toll asked about electronic signs as had been used for Labor Day. Mr. Benson stated those changeable message signs had been rented and were quite expensive. He noted the City would be getting a couple of the message signs for emergency management and they could be used for traffic and parking management when not needed for emergencies.

Marian Yacko suggested placing a sign about the shuttle at the Incline and at the Barr Trail Parking Lot.

Mr. Koerner left the meeting at this time (9:15 am)

Ms. Anthony informed the board St. Andrew's church had requested passes or parking provision be made so parishioners on Sunday's weren't required to pay for parking. Discussion ensued about either issuing passes for the Canon Lot similar to the provisions being made for the Catholic Church in the Ruxton RPP area, or just not enforcing in the Canon Lot on Sundays until later in the day. The Board consensus supported accommodating the services however the Parking Manager felt was best.

Mr. Heimsoth stated he was told the paid parking was causing issues for the Golden Circle Lunch program. Ms. Anthony stated the City provided passes to the senior lunch program for the Canon Lot and she had not heard they needed any additional or there were any issues. She indicated she would check with JoAnne Garrison about this.

There was no discussion regarding a tokens or smart cards.

The board addressed the issue of free motorcycle parking and agreed that if a vehicle had a license plate it needed to pay to park on-street or in any of the parking lots.

IV. STATUS OF RPP IMPLEMENTATION IN THE RUXTON CORRIDOR

Mr. Gagnon reported the implementation was going well and residents were coming in for their permits. Enforcement had begun. He noted if a resident got a ticket this would be reduced to a warning if they came in and got their permit.

Mr. Kilroy stated the meters on Ruxton read "no pay parking" during the resident's only times and this could be interpreted as free parking.

Mr. Gagnon thanked Ms. Kilroy for the input and noted they were working on ironing out some of these issues. He updated the board that there had been no new RPP applications, but he had mailed information to people in several neighborhoods.

V. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR COMPREHENSIVE SIGNAGE PLAN

Ms. Anthony requested that the Board review the proposal and email her back comments on Mr. Miller's proposal so that it could be determined what changes or additional he might need to address.

VI. UPDATES:

• Parking Enforcement Report

Discussion ensued regarding posting of parking information on the website. It was noted there were two levels of visitors – short term tourists who needed immediate information on how and where to park; and the local visitor who might need more detailed information like on the first 15 minutes free and other options.

Ms. Anthony noted she had suggested placement of some summertime ads in local publications that tourists pick up.

Mr. Miller related his wife had an event at her Ruxton gallery and received very good feedback on the parking system.

Ms. Anthony suggested it might be a good idea to send a letter to downtown businesses and give them some information and even talking points regarding working with customers on parking.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING NONAGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Miller noted his contract to assist with the implementation of the paid parking and RPP had come to an end and he thanked the Standard representatives and City Staff for working hard. He commended the PAB for hanging in and getting what needed to be done accomplished.

PAB members thanked Mr. Miller. Ms. Anthony noted the implementation would not have been possible in the timeframe it was completed without Mr. Miller's assistance, which Mr. Leung concurred with.

Ms. Toll indicated she had told the owner of Adam's Mountain Café she would pass along the copies of comments from her patrons to the board and these were provided in the PAB packets.

Ms. Yacko thanked the board for their work on the RPP program.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Yowell adjourned the meeting at 10:07 am.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Michelle Anthony, AICP Planner