



**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A regular meeting of the Manitou Springs Transportation and Parking Board was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, in Council Chambers, 606 Manitou Avenue. Chairman Koerner called the meeting to order at 8:35am. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT: Chair BILL KOERNER
Vice Chair NEALE MINCH (left at 11:00am)
Board Member JAY BEETON
Board Member JOY PORTER
Board Member VALERIE ROSENKRANTZ (left at 11:00am)
Board Member SUSAN WOLBRUECK
Alternate Board Member ROLF JACOBSON

ABSENT: Board Member L'AURA WILLIAMS (excused)

STAFF: Michelle Anthony, Senior Planner
Sherri Johnson, SP+ Facility Manager
Dane Lyon, SP+ Senior Manager

GUESTS: Leslie Lewis, Chamber of Commerce Director
Lisa Quintana, Chamber Board Liaison
Becky Elder, Council Liaison
Nancy Fortuin, OSAC Chair
David Chorepenning (left at 10:10am)
Tim Beeson
Laura Hensley, Poppyseed
Jan Chappell, Canon Merchants
Gwenn David, Avenue Hotel, Whickerbill and Chamber Board
Ericka Westmoreland, Pilot Knob Resident

Chairman Koerner asked everyone present to introduce themselves, welcomed the guests, and asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ITEM 1. July 25, 2017

MOTION:

Board Member Rosenkrantz postponed consideration of the July Meeting Minutes to the October meeting.

SECOND:

Board Member Beeton seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 2. 2018 Budget

Staff reviewed the information provided to the City Administrator and the Finance Director for the board's 2018 budget request and noted she would advise when the presentation for the board was scheduled.

Board members discussed stressing the request was for approximately 10% of revenue going back into long-range planning and parking is an economic development driver that effects businesses, citizens and visitors.

Chairman Koerner asked for the revenue projections and if the proportional share of costs between the City and Metro Board were being addressed. Ms. Anthony stated that evaluation should done when the new SP+ contract was under review.

ITEM 3. Three Hour Free Parking in the Off-Season

Board member Porter indicated the number of Incline hikers needed to be limited and until and unless this was done the board had to be careful because free parking would frequently be taken by hikers and military training using the Incline. She also stated her concern with being able to pay for the free lot at the Hiawatha and the Shuttle if more free parking was offered.

Board member Wolbrueck noted with the recent changes to an hour of free parking (two, 30-minute increments), three-hour free parking was going backwards, not moving forward and was not productive.

Parking Manager Sherri Johnson noted the City had implemented paid parking ending at 6pm, which also added hours of "free" parking at least during summer evenings.

Ms. Lewis stated ending the paid parking at 6pm had helped businesses and the restaurants appreciated that step. Locals appreciate the three-hour free parking, but visitors don't really care about this.

Lisa Quintana indicated she loved the perk and would tell people; however, it was confusing and she appreciated the 6pm end of paid parking.

Gwenn David stated consistency is hugely important and changing parking rules seasonally was not good for that. She felt the one-hour free parking and the 6pm end of paid parking were good for business.

Ms. Anthony noted the implementation of the Smart Card program would also provide free parking to residents.

Laura Hensley stated it was important to be consistent and \$1 for one hour was easy to understand. She asked if this was competitive with Colorado Springs.

Board member Rosenkrantz stated City Council wanted a report back on this item as they had almost not followed the TPB recommendation, but decided not to re-instate the program out of respect for the board and because of the confusion issue.

Board member Minch stated he had spoken to a number of people in Colorado Springs and many of them were not coming over to visit because of the construction. He suggested more marketing might help with that issue and might be a more important factor in getting people into town than offering some free parking.

Ms. Lewis replied Canon Avenue merchants were down and they were working on a huge marketing blast. Consistency makes the parking easier to understand for visitors.

Board member Wolbrueck remarked people were not coming to town because they can't find parking, not because of the cost and the regional visitors didn't come because of the crowds.

Board member Beeton agreed more local people stay away in the summer because of the crowds. However, there had not been a reduction in visitorship, but a change in the demographic.

Board member Jacobson asked if free parking days would make more sense. The board advised regarding some background and noted City Council did not support.

Tim Beeson asked when the City would say "Enough is Enough" in regard to visitors as people needed to live here. He noted the Carl Walker Study did not address how much parking the City needs and that information is needed.

MOTION:

Board Member Minch moved to recommend to City Council no change in the current parking operations, specifically not to re-implement the three-hour free parking in the off-season.

SECOND:

Board Member Beeton seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

ITEM 4. Changing Kiosks to Parking Increment of Less than One Hour

SP+ indicated there was no technical issues with changing to less than one hour increments and supported the board's recommendation if it wanted to implement this.

Ms. Anthony asked about how the tiered rate would be dealt with. Mr. Lyon indicated it was too complicated to do tiered pricing for less than an hour, so it would only be offered for the hours that were a single dollar.

Board member Beeton asked why it was necessary to make this change. He noted there was an hour free and he felt someone wanting to park shorter term was covered by the 30-minutes free twice a day.

Mr. Lyon agreed and noted the extra confusion regarding being able to pay for 15 minutes for some of the parking, but not as more hours were added, would be confusing and this might not be worth it.

Board member Beeton stated dealing with quarters or other change was like dealing in 1890s money and wondered why this item was being discussed.

Board member Wolbrueck stated Board member Williams had asked for the discussion, but noted there are no change machines now.

Board member Jacobson stated he supported not going lower than one hour increments.

Board member Minch asked Ms. Johnson what feedback there had been regarding removal of the change machines. Ms. Johnson indicated she had not heard complaints.

Laura Hensley from the Poppyseed stated her shop was next to the Canon Parking Lot and they served as the change machine, but that brought people into the store.

Gwenn David, Whickerbill, suggested having to select pay-to-park when you are trying to find the free parking option was confusing and the City needed to make whatever it did clear on signage on the kiosks.

MOTION:

Board member Minch moved to not recommend the paid parking kiosks be programed to accept less than 1-hour increments.

SECOND:

Board Member Beeton seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

ITEM 5. Warning First Policy

Ms. Johnson noted there was a 15-minute grace period after expiring before enforcement personnel wrote tickets.

Ms. Anthony noted a grace period was significantly different than a warning, however she supported providing a grace period.

Chamber Director Leslie Lewis stated the RPP areas needed improved signage.

Board member Wolbrueck stated the PEOs could only be so many places at a time and the City had increased the fee because a \$30 ticket did not seem to provide the behavior modification desired in the RPP areas. She related that people were blocking driveways and waiting to pick people up in her RPP.

Ms. Lewis asked if it might help to paint the curbs in an RPP a different color. Board member Wolbrueck stated that would be a lot of painting and there were issues with the yellow and green areas not being painted.

Board member Beeton related he recently saw three cars parking in the Ruxton RPP and advised them they were parking illegally and what the ticket was, but they were all there when he returned to the area.

MOTION:

Board member Minch moved to not recommend that a warning first policy be implemented.

SECOND:

Board Member Porter seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

ITEM 6. Report on Joint Metro/TPB Subcommittee on Parking Garage Planning

Chairman Koerner stated it was clear the Metro District was not interested in collaborating on a joint plan for the Wichita and Hiawatha Lots. Metro members indicated the City could provide a proposal for them to consider.

Board member Porter stated she did not feel the board was in a position to offer a proposal and she wouldn't know what that would be.

Board member Minch noted the Metro Board was ahead in planning for the Wichita Lot vs. where the City was on the Hiawatha property. Geotechnical and data gaps were identified on Hiawatha, needed in order to even start a proposal. Wichita was well down the road toward construction in Fall of 2018. At this point, the City didn't know if a garage on Hiawatha was feasible and, understandably Metro doesn't want to wait with their project until the City can catch up.

Board member Wolbrueck noted 86% of downtown merchants want a parking structure on the Wichita Lot and reinvesting money into more downtown parking. Her neighbors thought anything could be done at the Hiawatha. She expressed her wish the City had a public information officer to help push out good information and assist with misconceptions. Her neighbors told her the Metro District was wrong and the garage should be on Hiawatha. The misconception is the Wichita garage will be ugly, but Metro has stated it is open to a nice design. She has encouraged people to attend Metro meetings. She stated her concerns with too much bad information out in the public and that may affect the ability to get people to visit.

Board member Beeton stated Metro should hold open houses and quit operating in the shade, which he noted was not purposely done. He remarked his concerns with traffic, getting people in and out of the garage, and the look of the building. Board member Beeton stated Metro owed it to the community to get out good information. He offered the merchant response supported a structure, but there was no indication of where.

Board member Wolbrueck stated she had spoken with a number of downtown businesses and agreed there needed to be more transparency. She felt the businesses want the structure close to downtown and believe they support at the Wichita property in order to have parking for customers and for employees.

Board member Jacobson stated the Metro was moving forward with their plans – he didn't know all the details or if the plan was competent, but the TPB could chose to be in the way or not.

Board member Porter stated the board was not going to get in the way and wanted to be cooperative.

Chairman Koerner stated he would continue the dialogue and learn what the financial needs of the Metro were in regard to considering any alternatives.

Board member Rosenkrantz noted that the TPB was concerned with the entire City, while the Metro's focus was on the property they own.

David Chorepenning stated the construction of a garage and where this was going to go was a huge issue for the City and the TPB should take a leadership role to address the issues and be in the mix. He stated the Metro District was part of the community and they could not build the garage if it would add to congestion.

Ms. Johnson noted the Manitou Avenue RPP meeting was all about employee parking and impact on the residents.

Chairman Koerner stated the City did not have a parking algorithm that would calculate the number of parking spaces needed per business and residential units.

Gwenn David asked if something were done at Hiawatha, would it no longer be free. She stated she knew how many people used that lot and didn't think building a structure there would bring more people in. She stated the spaces were needed for people looking for parking.

Board member Minch stated there was a process and steps that had to be gone through to develop the Wichita lot.

Chairman Koerner stated working on a plan for the Hiawatha Lot was premature because the needed capacity was not known.

Board member Minch suggested that the TPB advise the Metro Board they need citizen engagement and to put out good information.

Board member Jacobson stated the TPB should remain neutral regarding the Metro's plans, but not support an increase in congestion.

Board member Beeton stated he was concerned there was no solution with the current approach.

Board member Minch asked what the Traffic Study would include. Staff reviewed these requirements.

Gwenn David asked if the City went through the same process when it put in paid parking on the streets. It was noted there were several studies that recommended paid parking.

Chairman Koerner stated the Metro District needed to be more transparent and pro-active. He agreed the TPB should not take a position on the garage at this time.

David Chorepenning again encouraged the TPB to take leadership on the issue, stating it can and should as parking is a subset of transportation. The TPB should be at the forefront of the process and not just providing input.

MOTION:

Board member Beeton moved to encourage the Metro District to undergo a full public process and engage the community to allow for and gain informed consent regarding a parking garage at the Wichita Parking Lot, not rely just on the Major Development requirements but seek pro-active engagement to determine the best solutions and gain input on the construction of a garage.

SECOND:

Board member Rosenkrantz seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion regarding the wording of the motion ensued and Staff read it back to the board.

Board member Minch recommended representatives of the TPB take this motion to a Metro Board meeting.

Board member Rosenkrantz asked if the board could send this to the Metro District without City Council approval. Staff stated this was advice, not requiring anything and as such felt the TPB could provide this input to the Metro board.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

ITEM 7. Discussion Regarding Changing the Transportation and Parking Board Scope

Brief discussion ensued about the board's scope. Ms. Anthony asked board members to review the information provided and to email her feedback regarding what the desired changes were.

Chairman Koerner asked board members to provide information within two weeks so that Ms. Anthony could prepare recommendations for the next meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 8. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to City Council Regarding Further Measures to Reduce Traffic Congestion on Ruxton Avenue and through the Downtown:

- a. Establishing controls on Incline Usage Consistent with the City's Capacity to Provide Parking and Transit to Incline Hikers
- b. Other

Board member Porter noted the capacity of the Incline itself was also a factor in establishing an allowed use for the trail, in addition to the capacity of parking and transit.

Board member Beeton noted how much impact residents should bear should be a factor of the capacity as well. He felt the residents and the Incline could co-exist if that was figured out.

Chairman Koerner stated Colorado Springs' attorneys should be satisfied now that the final section was being repaired in regard to a fee imposed for use of the Incline. He stated this needed to be proposed to the Incline Management Committee.

Board member Beeton suggested Pay to Play wasn't the whole answer. The issues were capacity and need to control the users. He noted 70,000-100,000 hikers used the Incline before it was legalized and that was acceptable.

Board member Porter stated fees and capacity needed to work together to limit the impacts without eliminating the use.

Board member Minch asked if this should be taken to an Incline Management Meeting. Ms. Anthony recommended it go to City Council, who can then give direction to the staff on the management committee.

Staff provided a brief update on the status of the Cog Conditional Use.

Board member Beeton spoke about a back-up the previous Friday caused by Cog patrons and stated Ruxton was already at tipping capacity before the Incline came along, noting that the Broadmoor operates Seven Falls with shuttles.

Chairman Koerner asked if the Ruxton Functionality Study would include an evaluation of the street's capacity. Ms. Anthony indicated that she believed it would.

MOTION:

Board member Beeton moved to send a recommendation to the City Council to engage the City of Colorado Springs in re-examining the Incline Management Plan to look at the capacity of Ruxton Avenue, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the Incline and move forward to control the number of hikers by a mechanism to be determined before Memorial Day 2018.

SECOND:

Board member Minch seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no further discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed, 7-0.

Board members Rosenkrantz and Minch left at this point in the meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 9. Discussion Regarding Revisions to Board Bylaws

Ms. Anthony asked that any revisions board members wanted to recommend be provided to her in the same two-week timeframe as allowed for the board scope feedback.

VII. UPDATES

- Complaints/Input Regarding Need for Change Machines
- Shuttle Operations
- Incline Management Committee Minutes
- Parking Management and Financial Report – Ms. Johnson reported that the PEO's are seeing people pay at the kiosks and compliance seems to be up. She noted the ambassadorial role of the PEO's has helped and revenue is very close to the previous year at the same time. She noted she is getting coupons for the Barr Lot from hikers, not just people staying overnight at Barr Camp. Ms. Anthony confirmed that was how the system worked, both campers and hikers who go to Barr Camp get the discounted lot rate.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion regarding these items listed on the agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business before the Board, Chairman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.

Submitted by Michelle Anthony, Senior Planner