



Parking Advisory Committee Meeting 11/1/2023

Minutes

Attendees: James Bonanno, Jill Potter, Craig Dipaola, Barbara Krzak, Jordan Modell

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Public Comment

Dennis Wierl – As a resident of Bridge Street, Mr. Wierl expressed his opinion that the road has become too popular to support the existing two directional traffic pattern in place. The number of parked vehicles along the roadway has increased and the travel lane is too narrow for two vehicles to pass each other when parked vehicles are present. He believes a one-way traffic pattern should be implemented on this roadway. The Parking Committee and staff understand and agree with the geometric constrictions of the roadway and acknowledged that this issue is present on neighboring roadways such as Pine, Comstock, and Langford. It was the opinion of the Committee that implementing a one-way traffic pattern on one roadway would create an inconsistency in the traffic network which would create further confusion however, a larger network of alternating one-way streets may be beneficial to the entire area. The Committee asked Staff to review road widths in the area as well as traffic generators and the overall traffic pattern to determine if this solution is feasible. This discussion was tabled until Staff could provide additional information.

Gina Grieco – Ms. Grieco shared concerns with commercial vehicles occupying available parking spaces on public streets. It is her opinion that homes should be limited to the number of Commercial Vehicles that may park on the street at night as they leave fewer spaces for residents. Ms. Grieco was informed that the City Council has already adopted an ordinance to create a Commercial Vehicle Permit that will do exactly this. Staff is working on developing the permit and believes it will be implemented in January of 2024.

4. Matters from the Director of Transportation
 - a. Monthly Parking Report

Staff presented the Parking Committee with the monthly Parking Report that illustrated October 2023's parking revenue was 12.98% lower than October 2022's revenue. This was most likely due to the frequent rain in 2023.

Staff continued with the Review of Parking Meter Maintenance. The Committee was made aware that most of the flooded meters have been repaired but a few along Lake Avenue continue to have issues with their bill readers. All meters are active with the exception of the damaged portions of the flooded meters.

6.59% of parking tickets issued, or 166 in total were voided in the month of October. The largest reasons being Officer Adjusted with 62.65%, Ticketed While Paying with 14.46, 12.05% due to User Error, Duplicate Ticket with 6.02%, One Time Courtesy with 3.01%, Subject Paid with 1.20%, and 0.60% to valid permit holders.

In the month of October, the Mattison Avenue charging station had an average of 24.24 hours of utilization and 105.64 kWh dispersed per day, the Seventh Avenue charging station had an average of 12.86 hours of utilization and 65.01 kWh dispersed per day, and the Springwood Avenue charging station had an average of 0.75 hours of utilization and 4.88 kWh dispersed per day. Mattison Avenue and Seventh Avenue exceeded utilization goals while Springwood Avenue fell short of meeting both utilization goals.

5. Old Business

a. 2024 Parking Committee Meeting Calendar

Staff shared the final 2024 Meeting Calendar with the Committee

6. New Business

a. Residential Off-Street Parking

The Committee was made aware of resident concerns regarding obtaining a permit that were made to the City Council. Residents made the Council aware that the price of parking on site at apartment buildings has increased to a point that they feel is unattainable and thus are requesting to park on the street. However, residents with off-street parking available to them are not eligible for a parking permit and are required to make use of the off-street space. Residents would therefore like to be permitted to purchase a parking permit regardless of whether off-street parking is available to them. The Parking Committee was not in favor of this. Parking Permits and metered parking regulations are in place to manage the demand for on street parking and allowing all residents access to street parking will only increase the demand on public parking resulting in hardships for all city residents, business owners, and visitors.

b. Parking Committee Requests

The Parking Committee received two Requests. The first of which was directly related to the off-street parking discussion and was considered in the previous agenda item. The second expressed concerns regarding the Bangs Avenue Garage and access to the elevator on site. Staff informed the Committee that the elevator has been inaccessible in the evenings due to difficulty staffing the Garage attendant position. Without an attendant on hand, we are not permitted to have the elevator access lobby open to the public. Staff are working to fill these positions to re-open elevator and lobby access.

c. Parking Garage Renovation Request

The Parking Committee was asked to review a request from 1501 Ocean Avenue to allow for free residential parking around the building while garage repairs are made. The vehicles in question currently park inside the indoor parking garage but will need to be removed for the repairs to take place. The Committee discussed the request and felt the private parking lot across Seventh Avenue would be more than sufficient to handle the parking needs of the building during their renovations. The lot is free in the off-season and accessible to anyone. It is located directly across the street from the building. Free on street parking will not be necessary.

7. Adjournment