

MISSOULA PARKING COMMISSION

Minutes

July 1, 2010

A Board of Directors' meeting was held in the Jack Reidy Conference Room, 140 W. Pine at noon. Those in attending the meeting were Board members Rod Austin, Jinny Iverson, Carol Williams and Theresa Cox. From the Parking Commission office was Anne Guest, Director and Kathy Lathrop, Administrative Services Manager. Also was in attendance was Scott Sproull, Hide and Sole; Jim Galipeau, JCCS; Geoff Badenoch; Bob Minto; and Dennis Greeno from OZ Architects.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rod Austin.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made.

III. Public Comments and Announcements

Scott Sproull stated that the June 30, 2010 Parking Commission Advisory Committee (PCAC) meeting was real interesting. He said that he felt that there was an overall consensus from the committee that they were in favor of the backend fine structure. Scott said that he is in favor of an "Oops" ticket but the committee was not all in agreement. Additional information was requested from PCAC to make their decision. Scott stated that the oops ticket would change customer opinions about downtown. He said that would make it easier to pass with City Council if we have something nice on the frontend of the fine structure. Scott stated that more meter revenue would be generated on the backend meter fines. Scott implied that the next year's increases of lease lot and meter rates would make up for the loss of meter revenue on the oops tickets.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. **June Board meeting was held on June 3, 2010.**

The minutes of the June Board meeting held 6/3/2010 were unanimously approved with requested amendments.

V. Presentation(s)

A. **Mechanical Parking – Geoff Badenoch** (in City Council Chambers)

Geoff held a well laid out video presentation on mechanical parking. The presentation was based on his personal interest as he is a strong believer of thinking about new ideas. The presentation outlined mechanical parking as an alternative to traditional parking. Traditional parking has its draw backs which were addressed by mechanical parking. Some of issues that were addressed included the time spent searching for parking, driver safety, social behavior, parking structure design, consumption of valuable land, the challenge of street frontage, and aesthetic appearance.

Mechanical parking is an automatic or robotic parking system. It is based on high volume of pallet movement. The system uses a combination of computers, lasers and sensors. The redundant system eliminates the need for personnel manning the tediousness of sitting in a booth. The Board showed their interest and asks several questions.

VI. Action Items

A. Parking Demand Model Proposal – Kimley-Horn

At a previous Board meeting Kimley-Horn held a presentation regarding their parking demand model. The model has the ability of GPS monitoring of assets (i.e. parking). Once the model is setup internally it could be easily maintained on a regular basis. However, concern was expressed that MPC has adequate personnel to maintain the model.

The Board questioned whether the model is beneficial to MPC and who else in the City would benefit. It was questioned if this is really needed and will the model be used. It was also brought up if the model would help and/or supplement the Mayor's project. The cost of the model was of concern and brought attention to the validity of spending the money to purchase the model.

The Board suggested that MPC review Kimley-Horn's references before any decision is made. MPC will pose questions to Kimley-Horn regarding the benefits, other current users and competitors.

VII. Non-action Items

A. New Business

1. Carousel need for handicap spaces – Theresa Cox

Theresa Cox stated that the Carousel does not have any handicap parking available during regular business hours. Individuals cannot access the handicap spaces in Caras Lot because gate arms limit access to the lease lot. The gates are operational Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, except for Federal Holidays.

Theresa is requesting two handicap parking spaces to be located in New Park Lot. The Board will consider the request. Anne Guest will discuss the issue with Steve King.

2. Johnson Control Energy Savings Performance Contract – Anne Guest

Johnson Control conducted an energy savings performance study for the City. They studied and made suggestions on lighting energy savings. The replacement cost for Central Park would come to \$116,000 with \$16,000 savings per year and 7.2 years payback period. Bank Street replacement cost would be \$65,124 with a payback period of 8.7 years.

Various payment options include full payment upfront, amortization per month or obtaining a loan. It was determined that it would be less expensive to make the changes when the City starts their program.

B. Old Business

1. Fine Structure – Rod Austin

A lengthy discussion was conducted in relation to changing the fine structure. Majority of Board was in favor of a tiered system and the backend rates. The "Oops" ticket and beginning fine rates were mostly in contention. Questions arose concerning the effect on revenue and changes in public parking behavior. It was brought up that Board might need to look at other options to subsidize an "Oops" ticket. A parking SID was one alternative that was mentioned.

Rod reported that the majority of PCAC were against an oops ticket and felt that they need to continue discussions at the next meeting.

It was brought up that Iowa City tried the tiered system with an oops ticket for one year and realized a 35% to 40% decrease in fine revenue last July 2009, along with an 8% to 10% increase in ramp revenue. They had previously beefed up their other revenue sources in anticipation which are more substantial than Missoula's sources. The original fine structure was

\$5 and \$10. They had since changed the fine structure to \$5, \$15, \$20 and \$25 fines with a 6 month turnover. They are also going to extend the turnover period to one year.

It was discussed that the BOD would need to proceed and make a decision on the new fine structure. They are showing a low tolerance to continue further lengthy discussions. However, it was felt that they needed to bring a palpable proposal to City Council.

2. N. Higgins Project – Rod Austin

N. Higgins project is rapidly catching up on schedule. The owners of the N. Higgins lot are willing to open up the lot to the public parking during construction. The BID has agreed to clean and maintain the lot.

It was suggested that a sign stating “Free Parking During Construction” be placed in the lot for public informational purposes.

3. Front Street Parking Structure Update – Ellen Buchanan

The final documents should go out today or tomorrow on the final amendments. Ownership of the land will still need to be transferred from First Interstate Bank (FIB) to MPC.

4. Parking Commission Advisory Committee (PCAC) – Rod Austin

The fine structure was discussed during the June 29, 2010 PCAC meeting. The discussion and issues are addressed in the above Board Fine Structure agenda item.

Due to time constraints parking technology was briefly discussed in the PCAC meeting. Parking technology will be placed first on the next PCAC agenda followed by continuing the conversation regarding the fine structure.

It was noted that everyone was engaged at the last PCAC meeting which was appreciated.

5. Downtown Master Plan Update – Rod Austin

The implementation committee has been continuing to meet on a regular basis. They are focusing on recruitment and member retention. Rod stated that the parking demand model would be helpful for all downtown individuals.

VIII. Director’s Report

A. Financial Statements

Jim Galipeau reported that it would be important to look at May 2010 parking revenue. The revenue is \$31K less than the previous year-to-date for the same month.

B. Next Meeting Date – August 5, 2010 (Jack Reidy Conference Room)

IX. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Anne P. Guest
Director