

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

June 29, 2011 2:05 PM

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Bob Jaffe, Marilyn Marler, Renee Mitchell, Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Jon Wilkins, Cynthia Wolken

Members Absent: Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Steve King, Anne Guest, Rod Austin, Rachael Caldwell

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approval of the minutes of – June 22, 2011 Approved as submitted

B. Announcements – Jason Wiener at the request of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board is forming a sidewalk subcommittee. He has spoken to Administration about the possibility of staff support and to some of the Departments about their willingness to contribute. There will be a referral ready for the Council on July 11, 2011, and to the committee for discussion by July 13, 2011, to appoint this subcommittee. Marilyn Marler offered to Chair it, also interested are Ed Childers, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, and Cynthia Wolken; anyone else interested in serving on the committee please contact Jason and you will be listed on the referral as a voting member.

C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Confirm the reappointments of Carol Williams and Theresa Cox to the Missoula Parking Commission for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2015. (memo)—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 03/14/11)(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council confirms the reappointment of Carol Williams and Theresa Cox to the Missoula Parking Commission for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2015

Jon Wilkins made the motion to recommend the City Council confirm the reappointments of Carol Williams and Theresa Cox to the Missoula Parking Commission for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2015.

Anne Guest said Theresa Cox and Carol Williams have been a part of the Parking Commission Board for a many years and she would ask the committee to reappointment them.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. [This motion not discussed] Approve and authorize mayor to sign change order #1 to Lower Miller Creek Road Curb and Sidewalk contract. (memo)—Regular Agenda (Monte Sipe) (Referred to committee: 06/27/11) (HELD IN COMMITTEE)

2. [Discussion Date: 06/29/2011] Update from the Parking Commission. (memo)(Parking Fines) (Policy Review) (Ltr: Iowa) (Ltr: Henslely) (Draft Parking Ordinance)—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 03/07/11) (REMOVE FROM HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS)

Jason Wiener stated this was an opportunity to complete a discussion on any topics concerning the Parking Commission.

Anne Guest, Director of the Parking Commission, gave a brief summary of the Parking Commission's accomplishments and plans for the future. This includes staying true to the Downtown Master Plan and their recommendations, eight of the nine recommendations have been achieved and those include implementing the first hour free in the Parking Structure, this is in addition to utilizing coupons that are validated by the business where they shop giving the customer a total of two free hours of parking. The Parking Commission Advisory Committee was formed. A new parking structure is under construction with 3.5 million dollars in revenue bonds committed to the Parking Commission revenue, Lease Parking rates were increased, and they have invested in new parking technology with digital payment systems and a trial with IPS parking meters that will most likely be returned but requires a formal vote before any decision is made. They continue to support Missoula in Motion, MRTMA, First Night Missoula, Out to Lunch shuttle and others. They have also focused on some of the economic development support strategies with a new tiered parking fine structure. They have invested \$30,000.00 of parking commission revenue in a marketing plan with the Missoula Downtown Association and the Business Improvement District.

Bob Jaffe requested an overview of the list of items on the referral for better clarification and to provide an opportunity for the Council to offer opinions, concerns, and recommendations to the Parking Commission.

- Parking Meter fines: a tiered structure for multiple tickets has been voted on and passed.
- Electronic Meters: a decision on the IPS parking meters will be made after a formal vote and will most likely be returned.
- Meter rates: the City currently has Duncan Mechanical Meters that do not have the capacity to change the rates. To increase the rates would mean a Capital Expenditure with some type of new technology such as multi-space machines or electronic meters to replace all eleven hundred parking meters. The Parking Commission faces a critical time because the mechanical meters are obsolete and they can no longer be purchased. Parts for the daily repairs that are needed are limited to the small stockpile of old meters. The Downtown Master Plan recommends increasing the meter rates from \$.50 to \$1.00 per hour. Before this can happen the new tiered parking fine structure will be evaluated and then it will be determined how much money can go towards a Capital Expenditure for the purchase of new parking meters. Once the decision is made for the type of parking meters to be purchased there would be the ability to have variable rates for the thirty minute, two hour and ten hour meters.
- Ten hour meters: there is a plan to review the whole parking program to see where the ten hour parking meters could be moved and what impact this would have on the people that live the area.

Bob Jaffe offered a recommendation to the Parking Commission to consider moving the ten hour parking meters farther out of the retail area. To consider the impact of the parking by downtown employees; he feels this situation should be more regulated by the Parking Commission, possibly using parking passes.

Rod Austin said the Parking Commission has been waiting for the tiered parking fine structure to be set and then subsequently discuss parking meter rates and the location of the ten hour meters. It will be imperative to manage other parking options because property owners realize there will be issues in their neighborhood. When they come home and someone has parked at a ten hour meter they would have no place to park. The Downtown Master Plan Association will work to make sure the bordering neighborhoods are included in any decisions made.

Jon Wilkins said he has used parking meters in Canada that allow you to put money in for a particular meter anywhere in town by entering the number of the parking meter. This is convenient for the customer and would be a good alternative to consider if it were not too expensive.

Anne Guest stated that most small cities are opting for the multi-space machines and the Parking Commission will be using some of these on a trial basis. There are also two electronic parking meters in front of the Parking Commission office on a trial basis.

Ed Childers said the Parking Commission should look at the cost of parking meters and the rate necessary to supply the process and then bring this information to the Public Works committee.

Pam Walzer wanted to comment on individual meters verses multi-space meters. Multi-meter boxes are inconvenient and difficult to operate, you have to remember your license plate number, go back to car and put the slip on the dashboard and then go to the store; with an individual meter you can put the money in and go. She encouraged the Parking Commission to move the ten hour meters farther out.

Jon Wilkins said having multi-space meters that cover an entire block is not handicap friendly.

Dave Strohmaier said it is important to give the Public Works Committee's input to the Parking Commission before the commission makes any decisions.

Rod Austin commented that it has been recommended to the Parking Commission they have more than one Parking Structure in downtown; they still participate in the Transportation Demand Management (TDM), Marketing Downtown, Easy Pass Program, and others. These things combined with other financial obligations including replacement of parking meters make them very mindful and vigilant of the revenue needed. These are some of the issues they must consider when making decisions.

Renee Mitchell asked what the other small towns that cannot get meters were doing.

Anne Guest stated that many of the smaller towns have electronic parking meters but they were changing to multi-space meters because those can offer payments by credit cards and debit cards. The Parking Commission will evaluate the overall parking program and the Capital Expenditures, then determine what will offer greater options for payments. People do not want to worry with coins; the younger generation uses debit cards to pay for everything. No one decision is straightforward they are complex; the Parking Commission will review and evaluate all of their options and then make the best decision.

- Lease Rates: Have been increased.
- New Parking Structure: discussed in the last few meetings, there is no new information.
- Hip Strip parking and Parking Enforcement: The Parking Commission has jurisdiction for enforcing parking regulations on Higgins Avenue but not on any side streets. The enforcement issues have been addressed several times in the past. Three times the Parking Commission has enforced the parking on Higgins Avenue for time periods of six to nine months and all three times were asked to leave. It is difficult to respond until this area comes with a unified voice stating specifically what they want and what the Parking Commission has the jurisdiction to do.

Rod Austin said there is a group of property and business owners that are trying to organize and those representatives will be involved in an in depth conversation within the next six months. The businesses feel that placing meters in the area will kill their business. He stated the Parking Commission has no intention of expanding their jurisdictional territory.

Anne Guest reminded everyone that it is not just business owners on Higgins Avenue that are involved, there is also an adjacent residential area and whatever decision is made for Higgins will immediately impact those residences. Business decisions often conflict with the residential areas.

Public Comment

Rachel Caldwell from Ward I agrees the people close by will feel an immediate impact. From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM she cannot find a parking place near her home. Parking is difficult because in this area the side streets have limited or no parking and to expand with meters would make this situation much worse. If she has a day off and leaves to run errands when she returns she cannot find parking anywhere near her house. She is in favor of raising the parking meter rates.

Scott Sproull, owner of Hide and Sole, says the system is broken because the Council oversees almost all the financial major changes in the City including the tiered parking fine structure but somehow they do not oversee what the meter fee increases will be. He asked the City Council to change the law to allow the Council some process that would let them vote on this issue. He was hoping raising the meter rates would be delayed but it appears the meter rate changes will be considered soon. The meter fee increase is all about revenue and not about changing behaviors, to double the parking meter fees would have huge negative consequences for downtown businesses. The ten hour meters are also very problematic, the rates are \$1.00 a day and they appear to be very close to the City, County and Federal governments, the fees need to be increased and these meters need to be moved to the periphery of the downtown business area so customers can get to the government buildings. These are important issues and he is glad there have been discussions. He is asking for help in finding ways for the stake holders to be involved because they don't feel they have much of a public process.

III. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

Jason Wiener REMOVED Everything you always wanted to know about parking but were afraid to ask from the Held and Ongoing Agenda Items

1. Discussion on the sizes of grease interceptors for the restaurant industry ([Grease Interceptor PowerPoint](#)) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye and Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 04/21/08)
2. Review infrastructure conditions at the locations of serious and fatal traffic accidents: 2007-2009 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)
3. T4 America partner support ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye) (Referred to committee: (Referred to committee: 08/16/10)
4. Presentation from Public Works staff regarding proposed process for finding contractors and awarding bids for reconstruction of Russell Street. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 11/15/2010)
5. Resolution to change the speed limit on Reserve Street between Brooks and 39th Street. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Wayne Gravatt) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
6. Approve the agreement for consultant services with Eli & Associates, Inc. on Project 10-034 England Boulevard right turn lane improvements. ([memo](#)) - Regular Agenda (Kevin Slovarp) (Referred to committee 05/16/2011)
7. Purchase 32+ acre tract owned by EKO Compost for the amount of \$1.2 M (additional \$300,000 conditioned upon Flood Plain removal) and grant a Lease Agreement with EKO Compost for a five year period. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bruce Bender) (Referred to committee: 06/27/11)

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Diamond, Program Specialist
City Public Works Department