

Krista Artis

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Krista Artis; Charles Anderson
Subject: FW: Parking meter

fyi

From: Bob Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7:53 AM
To: Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>; Greg Doyon <gdoyon@greatfallsmt.net>; Craig Raymond <craymond@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Fwd: Parking meter

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Geranios <nick@g-e-inc.com>
Date: May 20, 2019 at 7:27:30 PM MDT
To: "Bkelly@greatfallsmt.net" <Bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>
Cc: "Mmoe@greatfallsmt.net" <Mmoe@greatfallsmt.net>, "Thouck@greatfallsmt.net" <Thouck@greatfallsmt.net>, "Bbronson@greatfallsmt.net" <Bbronson@greatfallsmt.net>, "Orobinson@greatfallsmt.net" <Orobinson@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Parking meter

Mayor and Commissioners

I Am asking you to say NO to a raise in the parking meters to a \$1.00.

Late last fall the shock and awe of raising the meters to \$2.00 was thrown out, to the general public, with reasons of differed maintenance, and public safety for the parking garages.

As we stand today \$400,000 is available from parking reserves and \$475,000 was approved to be used from tax increment financing district! This money is being used right now to fix the parking garages.

So the increase of a \$1.00 is NOT needed! I believe we need to pause and breath.

I am asking that you, City Commissioners consider that Parking Advisory partner with the Downtown Development Partnership, Downtown Great Falls Association and Business Improvement District and have a 5 or even a 10 year parking plan to present, as a whole group, \$1.00 will not fix anything but may make the numbers seem better.

Thank you for your service to our town and the downtown and hope we can all come to a better understanding of what is truly needed to increase usage and minimize expenses, which is what we all in the downtown corridor must do every day to survive.

A thought is perhaps extend the pay hours at the meter to help procuring more of the late night revenue stream thus giving the 9-5 businesses a break during there hours of operation and push some of the costs of parking to the late night venues.

Respectfully

Nicholas A Geranios

Vice-President

Geranios Enterprises Inc.

P.O. Box 2543, Great Falls, Mt 59403

Office: 406-727-3430 Fax: 406-727-3435

Mobile: 406-870-1208

Email: nick@g-e-inc.com

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Krista Artis

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Charles Anderson; Krista Artis
Subject: FW: Comment on Downtown Parking Meter Fees

fyi

From: Bob Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:49 AM
To: Greg Doyon <gdoyon@greatfallsmt.net>; Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>; Craig Raymond <craymond@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Fwd: Comment on Downtown Parking Meter Fees

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Great Falls Lodging Association <greatfallslodging@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2019 at 10:13:41 AM MDT
To: <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>, <mmoe@greatfallsmt.net>, <thouch@greatfallsmt.net>, <bbronson@greatfalls.net>, <orobinson@greatfalls.net>
Subject: **Comment on Downtown Parking Meter Fees**

Karen S. Venetz
939 2nd St. SW
Great Falls, MT 59404

May 21, 2019

Honorable Mayor Kelly and Commissioners Moe, Houck, Bronson and Robinson
2 Park Drive South
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I am writing to support downtown Great Falls and request a "no" vote on raising the parking meters to \$1.00. As we see businesses fold and close is it not in the best interest to support our local businesses instead of placing a deterrent on their business? The Holiday Village Mall continues to lose stores. With the loss of those stores, it is sure to drive business to downtown. You may think "not", they will go to Amazon. Well, with an increase in parking they sure will go to Amazon.

I believe the parking reserves and the money approved to be used from the tax increment financing district should be enough.

I agree with Alison Fried of Dragonfly Dry Goods to consider the partnerships with the Downtown Development Partnership, Downtown Great Falls Association and the Business Improvement District. And have a 5 to 10-year plan, instead of band aids.

Regarding parking violations; increase the fine schedule. I love the courtesy ticket idea and have received a few. I appreciate it. But when I receive a parking ticket, I know I should have been paying attention. Think about the following fine schedule; courtesy ticket for first time violation and increase in \$10 increments after that. Be sure to let the parking public know what the schedule is for those who continue to violate parking spaces.

This is the city I was born and raised in and that I love. I am very involved in tourism and see our numbers continue to increase. Let's not push our visitors away. I am sorry to hear and to report this, but I sure hear a lot of negative talk on the streets that our City is not very business friendly. This has been going on for several years. Let's think more about the parking meter fees before we increase them and be business friendly.

Thank you for serving our fine community,

Karen Venetz
Executive Director

Great Falls Area Lodging Association
100 1st Avenue North, Lower Level Suite
Great Falls, MT 59401

Krista Artis

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Greg Doyon; Craig Raymond; Charles Anderson; Krista Artis
Subject: FW: Parking
Attachments: image001.gif

FYI

Lisa

From: Bob Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Fwd: Parking

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tracy Perry <tracy@bluerosestyles.com>
Date: May 21, 2019 at 11:32:45 AM MDT
To: <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>, <mmoe@greatfallsmt.net>, <thouck@greatfallsmt.net>, <bbronson@greatfallsmt.net>, <orobinson@greatfallsmt.net>, 'Jeff Patterson' <jeffp@schoolhouseit.com>
Subject: Parking
Reply-To: <tracy@bluerosestyles.com>

Good Morning,

You know how I feel about the increase in parking in downtown Great Falls from the letter I wrote last year, participation at the ECC meeting, and my conversations with those who have popped in my business to discuss the issue.

You have seen recently the closures of many businesses in our downtown. I know firsthand up to ten businesses who are struggling, including myself, due to sparse traffic and parking issues. We are not blessed with tourists, as other Montana cities are. Walk down our downtown streets before happy hour and most times, it's a Ghosttown. Several downtown businesses are thinking of calling it quits because we have such little traffic and they can't make it. I would hope the recent downtown business closures concern you, along with the big box store closures in our city, and you come to the realization that raising the parking will be a huge detriment to the success and spirit of our downtown.

Thank you for your time,
Tracy Perry

Krista Artis

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Bill Bronson; Bob Kelly; Mary Sheehy Moe; Owen Robinson; Tracy Houck
Cc: Craig Raymond; Greg Doyon; Charles Anderson; Krista Artis
Subject: FW: Parking Commission.doc...Parking Meter Predicament

For consideration during the public hearing on Item 15 at tonight's Commission meeting.

Lisa

From: Owen Robinson <grogan@thegrogan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Stromberg <stromberg@isomedia.com>
Subject: RE: Parking Commission.doc...Parking Meter Predicament

Thanks for your input, Bob. It was good to see and visit with you at the meeting.

Owen

From: Stromberg <stromberg@isomedia.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 8:15 PM
To: 'Mary Sheehy Moe' <mary.sheehy.moe@gmail.com>; Owen Robinson <grogan@thegrogan.com>
Subject: Parking Commission.doc...Parking Meter Predicament

Ms. Moe,

It was a pleasure to see you at the Parking Committee meeting on Thursday in Great Falls.

I meant to hand you the attached letter at that time. Hopefully this email address is acceptable.

This is a very difficult & dicey problem for us all. I believe it was Descartes who said .." Life is neither a Comedy nor a Tragedy,It is a Predicament"

..and that pretty much seems to be the situation that we find ourselves in with regards to the funding of 'Great Falls Parking Garages' located in the Downtown area.

My phrasing in that last description was meant to emphasis that these structures are part of the community of Great Falls' infrastructure. Thus, to require the Downtown

Parking Meters to rescue these decaying Monoliths from past poor management is too great of financial burden for these fledgling Central Ave. retailers to bear.

The options seem clear: 1)> Add a temporary special assessment to the local Property Taxes...2) Close them down for a period of time while continuing to seek other funds.

3) Remove them completely & have only open unattended lots with drop boxes.

Stromberg Properties does own & operate its own attended parking lot. We will remain at \$.50 for the first hour & .25 per hour in order to

continue to generate traffic for the Downtown & our commercial buildings.

Regards,

Robert Stromberg

Stromberg Properties

Krista Artis

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:12 PM
To: Bill Bronson; Bob Kelly; Mary Sheehy Moe; Owen Robinson; Tracy Houck
Cc: Craig Raymond; Greg Doyon; Charles Anderson; Krista Artis
Subject: FW: meter hike

For consideration during tonight's public hearing on Item 15.

Lisa

From: Bob Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>; Mauri Novak <maurinovak@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: meter hike

Thanks for your note Mauri. I will share with the other commissioners was well.
BK

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mauri Novak <maurinovak@gmail.com>
Subject: meter hike
Date: May 21, 2019 at 3:36:08 PM MDT
To: <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>

Hi Bob. I'm sure you are getting plenty of feedback on this issue. That's why you get the big bucks...hahaha. I think you are doing a good job.

I encourage you to oppose this proposed meter hike. Downtown seems to be doing the Texas 2-step with 2 bits of good news followed by 1 bad and sometimes the other way around. I just think this is a momentum killer. It gives people another reason to avoid downtown.

I would encourage us to look for ways to make it easier and cheaper to park downtown. Could we ever look at putting in angled parking on the grossly under utilized 1-way thoroughfares? That would greatly increase on-street parking.

Thanks for your time.

Mauri Novak

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