

GREAT FALLS PARKING ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of January 14, 2010

Members Present: Darren Brown, Dave Campbell, Phil Kiser and Charles Fulcher

Staff Present: Wendy Thomas, and Dave Gagnon (Standard Parking)

Others Present: No others present.

Call to Order: The Parking Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiser at 3:03 p.m. in the Rainbow Room.

Meeting Minutes Mr. Kiser noted that in the meeting minutes there is a reference to Athens, GA, although that is what was mentioned at the meeting, he requested staff research the parking program in Rome, GA. Mr. Fulcher made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2010 meeting as written. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Parking Survey Results

Mr. Kiser asked the PAC members if there were any comments on the parking survey. Mr. Campbell noted that a respondent noted that meters should be removed, but timelimits remain with heightened enforcement. Mr. Kiser noted that there were no new constructive ideas offered in the survey which had not been discussed previously. He commented that the City keeps the same program in place expecting different results. He anticipates that new programs can be developed. Mr. Kiser closed the discussion on the parking survey.

New Business

Monthly Revenue & Expense Reports

Ms. Thomas reviewed the Monthly Parking Revenue Report for December, noting that revenue was down 12% over the same period last year. The revenue for November 2010 was down 1.5% over November 2009. Mr. Gagnon addressed the lower collection rate. On street revenue was up; however revenue in the lots was down. The members discussed public outreach regarding the "free parking week" before Christmas. Mr. Brown asked about NEW parking permits. Mr. Gagnon noted that monthly permit sales were down.

Signage

Mr. Brown asked about informational signs for parking and parking ramp rates signage for the garage. Ms. Thomas presented information she gathered on signs from the Standard Parking consultant. He recommended he come to Great Falls for a walk through and provide information on a new signage program. Ms. Thomas noted a new signage program would require time, design expertise and funding. The PAC discussed the usefulness of having signage to direct parkers to the parking garages. The focus of discussion was on monthly or long-term parkers. Mr. Fulcher challenged the PAC to set goals for the upcoming year. The members set as a goal the removal of the parking meters and a signage plan.

Meter District Size

Ms. Thomas handed out the City Code section that outlined the limits of the parking district. If the PAC wanted to change the district boundaries that would require a code amendment. Mr. Campbell noted that there are two hour limit parking signs east of 9th Street. Mr. Gagnon noted that under the new parking contract, Standard Parking is not spending as much time patrolling these areas and is focusing more time on the downtown core area. Members reviewed and discussed parking revenue data submitted by Standard Parking. Mr. Campbell noted that most office workers would not park on 800 block of Central and walk to large office buildings downtown. Mr. Gagnon noted that revenue from meters and citations are low in this area.

The members discussed sign removal or non-enforcement.

The members requested a cost estimate for sign removal. Mr. Gagnon offered to determine the number of signs that are under review.

The PAC voted (4-0) to stop enforcement of the 2 hour parking limit signs east of 9th Street North, see attached map.

The PAC voted (4-0) to stop enforcement in the three hour parking signs on 4th Avenue North, and 4th and 5th Streets north of 4th Avenue North, see attached map.

The PAC voted (4-0) to stop enforcement on the three hour parking area along 4th Ave. South, and on 5th St. South, and the 2 hour parking area along 5th Street South, 6th Street South and 7th Street North south of 2nd Ave., see attached map.

Parking Fees for Reserved Parking in Garages

Ms. Thomas stated that she got an inquiry about reserved parking in the North Garage. Ms. Thomas read to the members Mr. Brian Scoggins, Standard Parking, recommendations regarding reserved parking spaces in garages. Mr. Scoggins recommended against leasing assigned spaces, but if the space(s) were to be leased, the charge should be 50% over the standard rate.

The PAC voted (4-0) to agree to lease reserved ground level spaces on the inside wall of the parking garage at twice the standard rate. The lease would be responsible for enforcement and paying for signage.

Miscellaneous

The Commission discussed snow removal on the surface lots.

The Commission discussed buying monthly parking passes in bulk and payment for parking passes on-line.

Mr. Campbell asked the PAC to consider 3 hour free parking in a portion of Lot 4. Mr. Brown inquired if it would be an enforcement problem. Ms. Thomas noted that having that lot provide free parking would cost the City approximately \$12,000 in revenue each year.

Mr. Kiser asked staff to look into the minimum street width that is needed to provide angle parking on both sides of the street.

The members asked that staff follow through on where parking citation revenue is deposited within the City budget.

Public Comment

None

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 4:39 p.m.