

**GREAT FALLS PARKING ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the July 18, 2024 Meeting**

The Parking Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Chair, Inge Buchholz, at 3:30 P.M., in the Planning and Community Development Conference Room at the Civic Center.

**Members Present:** Inge Buchholz, Chair  
Jayson Olthoff, Vice Chair  
Katie Hanning  
Nathan Laidlaw

**Ex-Officio Member:** Kellie Pierce

**Members Absent:** Carol Berg

**Staff Present:** Brock Cherry, Planning & Community Development Director  
Lonnie Hill, Deputy Director  
Andrew Finch, Sr. Transportation Planner  
Alaina Mattimiro, Associate Planner

**Others Present:** Jenn Rowell, with the Electric, Tena Grigsby with SP+, Bob Kohler with SP+, Matt Gambardella with Metropolis, Evan Pryor with Metropolis

**Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Buchholz asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes from the June 20, 2024 Parking Advisory Commission meeting. Seeing none, Mr. Olthoff motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Laidlaw seconded.

**Vote:** All in favor, the motion passed.

**New Business**

**North Garage Parking Performance Updates**

Mr. Cherry handed out a report of the total revenues of the Parking program and went over the data in the report. Mr. Finch stated that it was worth noting that Parking is down overall for the month of June. Ms. Grigsby stated that there is an increase in usage of the North Garage, but that wouldn't affect the revenue, as the first two hours are free.

Mr. Cherry stated that there have been no security issues since leaving the doors unlocked in the North Parking Garage.

**Staff update regarding ADA spaces downtown**

Mr. Finch presented a handout to the Commission members and went over the information. He stated that there is a city ordinance that exempts people with an ADA placard from having the two hour time limit enforced. He stated the only way to have that changed was for the Parking Advisory Commission to make a recommendation to the City Commission to have the time limit enforced, with backup data to justify the request. Mr. Finch stated that the original request was to not enforce as the handicap spots are at the end of the blocks and the pay stations are in the middle of the blocks, which makes it difficult for handicap patrons to get to the pay stations. He stated that all ADA spots must have access to a ramp.

Mr. Laidlaw asked if the city has met the requirements for the amount of ADA spots downtown. Ms. Hanning stated that there was an inquiry into it a few years ago and it was determined that

there was enough spots and all the spots met the dimension requirements, with the exception of one, which was rectified after the inquiry.

Ms. Buchholz explained the reason she requested to have the ADA time limit enforced is that there are residents around her business that park all weekend in the ADA spot in front of her building and it is hurting her business. Mr. Finch stated that anyone with an ADA placard may take longer to get to and from their vehicle so that is why the time limit is not enforced for ADA.

Mr. Laidlaw asked if staff could let the Commission know how many ADA spots are downtown, at the next meeting.

**Any new items the Commission would like to discuss at future meetings.**

Mr. Olthoff asked what the parking footprint is and if we have an adequate amount or too much. Mr. Finch responded that there was a parking study in 2013 that addressed inventory that he will provide to the Commission at a future meeting.

Ms. Hanning stated that signage needs to be looked at for the public parking lots.

Mr. Cherry stated that staff could have the City Fiscal Department present the financials to the Commission.

Ms. Buchholz asked why parking is not enforced on the weekends and Mr. Finch stated that with the workforce using the parking during the week, it offsets the parking on the weekends. There is not enough funds to be able to enforce on the weekends.

Ms. Grigsby stated that if there is any problem with the kiosks, to call her on the number on the kiosk and she will send someone to look at it.

Mr. Kohler stated that Matt, Evan and himself will be coming to Great Falls in August to check in with the parking program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 P.M.