

GREAT FALLS PARKING ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of the August 15, 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
Carol Berg - 3:33 P.M.
Katie Hanning
Nathan Laidlaw – 3:31 P.M. via Zoom and disconnected

Ex-Officio Member: Kellie Pierce

Members Absent: Jayson Olthoff, Vice Chair

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

Others Present: Jenn Rowell, with the Electric, Tena Grigsby 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, Ms. Hanning motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Berg seconded.

Vote: All in favor, the motion passed.

New Business

Parking Financial Presentation

Melissa Kinzler, Director of Finance, presented to the Commission. She stated that the Parking Fund is an Enterprise Fund. She had some reports that she handed out to the Commission members and presented a breakdown of the Parking account. She stated that the fund will be very close to not having any cash at the end of June 2025 and that does not include any capital improvements. Mr. Cherry stated that there will need to be some dynamic policy changes.

Mr. Cherry stated that the South Garage is underutilized.

He stated the numbers below for counts of the North Garage but stated that the numbers were unofficial.

June 2023 – 329 daily users
June 2024 – 630 daily users

July 2023 – 370 daily users
July 2024 – 857 daily users

Mr. Cherry stated that the numbers will be vetted and the overall findings will be presented to the City Commission in October.

Any new business or concerns the Commission would like to bring forward

Ms. Hanning stated that she had an inquiry, in the area by Rib and Chop, about the ability to put angled parking in and wanted to know how staff evaluates to see what kind of parking works in an area. Mr. Finch responded that Public Works is going to take a look at the street and see if there is a safe opportunity to add angled parking in the area.

Ms. Pierce stated that MDT is open to discussion on converting 1st Avenue North and 2nd Avenue North to two-way streets.

Ms. Buchholz stated that the kiosks don't work very well and was wondering if there was something else that can be done. Ms. Hanning responded that the app is the easiest way for anyone to pay for parking. Ms. Grigsby stated that if anyone is having problems using the kiosk, to please call her and she will send someone out right away to look at it.

Mr. Cherry stated that his concern is user experience and noted that when looking for a new parking consultant contract, that will be one of the biggest items that will need to be addressed. There needs to be measurable metrics on how to improve on what is already being done.

Ms. Buchholz asked about the handicap parking and people taking up the spaces for several hours at a time. Mr. Finch responded that it explicitly states in the code, that time limits and charging for parking are prohibited for handicap spaces and that the code was changed two years. Mr. Cherry stated that something can be added to the Agenda for next month, if the Commission wishes to bring something forward to the City Commission to change it.

Mr. Cherry noted that the 2013 Parking Study was attached in the Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.