

PARKING ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

The PARKING ADVISORY PANEL (PAP) met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. as a virtual Zoom meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Acting Chair, Kirby Hutto. Kirby agreed to act as the Chair for this meeting based on the absence of Joan Fenton. The following members were present as well as Mr. Hutto: Jake Mooney, Danny Yoder, and Mike Rodi. City staff in attendance were Rick Siebert and Chris Engel.

The Chair opened the meeting at 3:40 p.m. The minutes for the October meeting were then unanimously approved without change.

Siebert briefed that there had been multiple meetings and significant public input on the Parking Action Plan. It was then submitted by the Parking Division to the then interim City Manager and was approved by his office. There was some discussion about the format of the file sent to the Panel and Engel volunteered to send it to everyone as a pdf. Yoder commented that he had reviewed it and felt it was apposite plan.

Siebert then talked about the current utilization of the garages as shown in the distributed utilization graphs for December. He indicated that the monthly parking at the Water St Garage was still well below pre-covid levels and that transient utilization was also lagging. He said that although the Market St Garage was fully sold to monthlies you could see that the garage was seldom more than half full. He attributed that to the continuing large number of S&P Global and City employees who were working from home. He said revenue was below budget for the fiscal year and that what happened in the Spring would make all the difference. He indicated that April was our busiest month in pre-covid times. Hutto said that as of right now he is strongly booking Pavilion in the Spring.

Siebert said he had distributed graphs of the tickets written by the Police on the w 2nd St lot and on the on-street spaces in the immediate area of the Downtown Mall. There were some questions concerning the very limited number of tickets written. It was noted, no tickets were issued on the W 2nd St Lot for the month of November. Mooney brought up the question of “why issue parking tickets “when our previous discussion indicated that there is, in fact, ample parking currently available. It was suggested that the on-street spaces were still being well used and enforcing the 2 hour limits created turnover. Siebert also suggested that enforcing the requirement to pay for parking was necessary to protect the revenue stream of the separate parking enterprise fund. Hutto asked if we were still prepared to release the contract parking RFP. Siebert said he was. It was noted we do not currently have even an acting city manager and that getting the approval of that office in coordination with the CPD was probably reasonable and necessary.

It was brought up that Molly Conger had tweeted that Rory Stolzenberg was on hold in the waiting room to join the meeting. Siebert checked the waiting room and admitted Michael Cusano. Siebert apologized in advance if he had missed Mr. Stolzenberg and Mr. Stolzenberg had given up and left.

The Chair asked for any New Business. None was offered. Hutto than asked for any public comment. Again, none was offered.

In the absence of any further comment the meeting was closed at 4:25 p.m.