

**Special Billings Parking Board
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2023 @ 2:00**

Board Member Present in person: Brandon Scala, Mark Kary, Larry Matthews, Todd Morgan, Jennifer Webber, Jim Hauck, Pete Sanderson, Thom Greenwood

Ad Hoc Board Member Present : Mehmet Casey

Board Members Absent: Thom Maclean

Guest: Shannon Christensen, Karl Decock, Daniel Young (Wo)

City Staff Present: Tracy Scott and Jennifer Mockel

Call to Order:

Brandon called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm

Public Comment (3 Minutes)

The guest talked during the Special Parking Board meeting.

Discussion Items

• Parking Situation on N23rd Street between Montana and 1st Ave N

The board discussed a situation that is happening in the alley by the Cushing Terrill building. Parking has become a huge issue as customers, delivery drivers and employees have been parking in the alley. Tracy mentioned that this area started to be a problem when Last Chance Pub moved. She commented that they don't usually enforce the alleys unless there is a complaint.

Karl Decock with Cushing Terrill stated that his building is getting hit by large delivery trucks due to the vehicles parking in the alley. There was discussion that getting a fire truck down the alley might be difficult. Karl did state that currently during the day the parking is getting better, but at night it is bad. Karl also stated that his parking lot is open to the public and business owners during the night but not during the day. They also lease parking across from the Depot for staff; after 5 o'clock those spots come open.

Tracy brought up that staff from other businesses are concerned when they park after 2 pm, that it is hard to move their vehicles after they are at work.

There was talk about having signs put into the alley stating, "No Parking", Jenny mentioned that there are no signs in all the other alleys. She stated that it needs to be consistent with the other alleys or it can get confusing to citizens and for enforcement.

Todd stated that after 5 and on the weekends the citizens or owners must call non-emergency for an BPD officer to come ticket the vehicles.

There was a lot of discussion about the area and whether there needs to be more 10 Hr. parking permits along 1st Ave N and the possibility of extending Parking Enforcement hours. Pete said that the evenings and weekends are the worst in that area.

Brandon stated that maybe a letter from the City of Billings needs to be sent to the owners in that area explaining the situation.

Daniel showed up and stated that business owners, customers, employees, and tenants don't know where to park. They know what they can't do and were not to park, but not where they can park. He talked about transients and not feeling safe. Mehmet talked to Daniel about using the Downtown Police Officers during the day. Karl talked to Daniel about talking to Sundown Security for helping his staff members feel safe.

Karl stated that lunch time is when he has the biggest issue. Karl did state that finding parking solutions for his customers and employees is not the responsibility of the city to come up with a resolution. Karl stated that there is always parking on 1st Ave N, and it's not timed parking. Employees can park there all day long and it's around the corner.

Tracy did suggest that her evening cleaning staff could possibly issue tickets in that area.

Mark stated that we have plenty of parking spaces in this area on 1st Ave N, he was wondering do we need to put up signs and paint the alley that is in question. Tracy said she will talk with Kevin about this situation and what can be done about installing signs and maybe painting the area. There was talk about putting in a fire lane in the alley around the fire connections.

Jennifer suggested the possibility of putting planters/murals/sculpture or lights in the area or some kind of beautification.

Next meeting:

Tracy discussion with Kevin about situation on signs and painting.

Meeting Adjournment:

Brandon adjourned the meeting at 3:26 pm.