

**Billings Parking Board
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2021**

Board Member Present in person: Brandon Scala, Joni Harmon, Todd Morgan, David Fishbaugh, Mark Kary, Sean Lynch

Ad Hoc Board Member Present : Mehmet Casey

Board Members Absent: Larry Matthews, Kelli Parsons

Guest: Mike Yakawich

City Staff Present: Tracy Scott, Jennifer Mockel

Call to Order: David called the meeting to order @ 1:01pm

Minutes:

The November 10, 2021, minutes were moved by Brandon and seconded by Joni. Approved by Board.

Reports:

- **Monthly Reports**
Cash sales have increased when comparing last month and year. Some of this is due to increasing the garages charging hours in November 2021 to 24 hrs/6 days a week. Empire hourly has increased, and the validations have also increased.
- **Operating Report**
License and permits profits are being received for the Delivery Permits. Charges for service is doing better. Difference between revenue and expenses is \$330,000.
- **Credit Card Analyze Report/PBP Report**
The pay by phone and credit card has both gone down slightly.

Downtown Alliance Report

The BID team is busy with snow, litter and sweeping. TIF is still active and ongoing. The DBA staff are monitoring the holiday parking and constantly making more bows. Mehmet is continuing to collect feedback on back in parking; he will report more later.

Public Comment (3 Minutes)

Councilman Mike Yakawich attended the meeting and talked about all the different committees and the special event that is held to recognize the volunteers for their service. Mike complimented the parking staff and how friendly and helpful they are. He appreciates the Parking Board. Mike shared with the group about some of the different things other Boards do to make it fun for the participants.

Discussion Items :

- **Upcoming Board & Commission Vacancies**

There are 2 vacancies, plus Joni & David positions. Mehmet asked who we are looking for to be on the Board such as business owners, landlords or residents. The Board thought maybe a resident and someone from the Minnesota Ave area could serve on the Board since those areas are growing.

The Chair Position and Vice Chair Position are open. David did mention that the new Chair should plan to meet with both Tracy and Jenny before the meeting to plan the agenda. The Chair will also be on the Downtown Partnership Board. Brandon volunteered to fill the Chair position; the Board approved. Brandon nominated Sean to be the Vice Chair, Sean accepted. The Board approved both positions; the new positions will start January 1, 2022.

The Board will continue to actively look for someone for the other 2 vacancies.

- **Parking Garage Names**

The Board continued to discuss the possibility of renaming all 3 Parking Garages. Tracy liked the idea of having them named after an animal or historical place. There was talk about business names; however, Sean stated that citizens/guests might think the garages would only be for those businesses. He suggested that a color might be a problem with people that are color blind. Joni thought maybe asking a marketing agency for their thoughts and ideas. Mehmet will research garage names and see what might work. Board will discuss this at a future Board meeting.

Agenda/Action Items

- **Special Parking Application**
 - **Eisele's Custom Footwear**

Eisele's Custom Footwear requested a handicap spot. Tracy looked at the area and, if approved, she will have to ask the Engineering Department if it is doable. Sean was wondering if a handicap spot is currently in that area. If approved, a meter will have to be removed. There was discussion about the lot across the street; wondering if there is a HC spot available?

Mark motioned to approve, Sean seconded, Board approved.

Tracy will ask Engineering if it would work and if not, what they would suggest. Also, the question was asked if that would work for just that location or for all the businesses around that area.

Additional comments/discussion:

There was some discussion on the 2-hour free parking; some citizens continue to pay. There was discussion on what to do in the future. David asked Mehmet if there are benefits with the free parking. Mehmet reported that businesses say it's nice. Reactions are positive, still confusion on what to do after the 2 hours; some wonder if they can extend it to 3 hours. Next year they talked about adding a date to the tag, so citizens know when it starts and ends. There are lots of areas to improve on for the future. The Board discussed on who is abusing the free parking, between businesses and residential. The Board discussed the possibility of offering the landlords a group rate for monthly passes in the garages.

Mehmet asked if the reserved spots in the garages are 24/7 or set certain times. Tracy responded certain times, except for assigned spots. Mehmet asked if a reserved spot could be from 7 pm-7 am. Brandon suggested that we have an evening rate for residents. David asked how we would target the different people. It was suggested that Mehmet meet with the landlords informing them of the potential asset for their tenants. Tracy would have to put this recommendation through City Council. There was a lot of discussion about residency parking and what we can do to help the downtown residents.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Garage names

Meeting Adjournment:

David adjourned at 1:49

Next meeting January 12, 2022 @ 2:00 pm