

PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021; 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 by Committee Chair Alicia Barbieri

Attending Members: Alicia Barbieri, Dana Harbaugh, Kris Becker, Melissa Huggins, Bryn West, Council Member Lori Kinnear, Council Member Karen Stratton, Richard Kier, Karl Otterstrom

Absent: Tim O'Doherty

Staff & Guests: Council President Beggs, Matt Williams, Andrew Rolwes, Allison von Ebers, Giacobbe Byrd, Shauna Harshman, Julie Dixon, Jennifer Largent, Jesten Ray, Jacque West, Brenda Nelson

Standing Items, Updates and Reports

Alicia called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 31, 2021. Melissa Huggins moved and Bryn West seconded the motion to approve the minutes, and the motion carried.

Discussions and Presentations:

Discussion of parking capital equipment purchase and final recommendation on preferred option:

Discussion as to whether kiosks and meters, just kiosks and no meters or just meters in the downtown core took place, with the PAC making a final recommendation to Council today for the upcoming vote.

CP Beggs addressed the PAC in favor of just kiosks in the downtown core and provided his supporting reasons. He stated that council staff studied San Francisco and other cities and found that there was an increase in parking revenue by using kiosks, and the kiosks encouraged people to use pay by plate apps. He commented that the existing parking meter standards could be kept for bikes and showed some creative photos showing how the meter standards could be turned into art deco pieces when no longer in use as parking meters. CP Beggs also mentioned that parking employees can be redeployed from collecting meter money, and LPR technology can be enforced so people can only park for two hours. CP Beggs said that when he was on the PAC, he was involved with how to best utilize parking funds to make DT more beautiful, and he asserted that more net revenue would go to the parking fund by installing kiosks over meters. Also, the DT Plan stated that kiosks utilize the best technology. Bryn countered by saying her experience shows Spokane's out of town visitors do not want to use and download an app, even if they don't have to make a deposit. CP Beggs mentioned guests can use a credit card or coins at kiosks as well.

Next, Kris Becker shared the results from the parking study, which found that kiosks were costly to fix, and if they are out of order, they take a long time to get replacement parts, meaning lost revenue and an inconvenience to customers. The study showed that San Francisco ordered the same meters we are proposing for Spokane, which are dual space meters in the downtown core, cutting down on the clutter of single space meters. Kris is currently working on app integrations, with other cities' apps. Another big savings is bank processing fees. A decision/recommendation needs to happen right away as the Smart Meters contract is up and soon the meters will just stop working. As far as lifespan for equipment, replacing equipment every 5 to 6-year cycle is normal for meters or kiosks ("guts" only). Kris mentioned that an average of 19 citations per hour for meters for walking enforcement is a good source of revenue.

After the facts were presented, members discussed their views and opinions. Alicia recommended keeping meters in the DT core, as did Dana, Bryn, Karen and Karl, but he mentioned the benefits of taking transit. There was a lot of time, money and effort put into the study and there was an overall support of staff's recommendation to keep meters in the core. After the discussion, Alicia called for a motion recommending the PAC will recommend and advise the Council that single/dual meters are the best solution for parking in the downtown core. Dana Harbaugh moved and Bryn West seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. CP Beggs said the Council will vote on the resolution on Monday at the City Council meeting. Kris described the implementation plan for the new system.

Parking system revenue and operations update since July: Kris Becker reviewed the P & L statement projections through 2030. See attached spreadsheet.

New/Old Business:

The next meeting of the PAC will be held in November unless action is required from the committee sooner, then an emergency meeting will be called.

Bryn asked what the plans are for the Post Street Bridge are for traffic and Kris mentioned she would check into that and let the group know.

The PAC has two vacant positions on the Committee: one small business member and one resident.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.