

Meeting Minutes
Farmington Parking Advisory Committee
December 16, 2020

Attendees

Kenneth Crutcher <crutcherk@crutcherstudio.com>,
David Murphy <DMurphy@farmgov.com>,
Frank Demers <FDemers@farmgov.com>
Chris Halas <ch.halas@gmail.com>,
Joe Mantey <cheeseladyfarmington@gmail.com>
Rachel Gallagher <rachelegallagher@aol.com>
Maria Taylor <MTaylor@farmgov.com>
Ted Warthman <TWharthman@farmgov.com>

Agenda

1. Roll call - 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the agenda

Crutcher made a motion to approve. Taylor supported. All were in favor. — Approved

3. Approval of the September & October 2020 Parking Advisory Committee Minutes

Taylor made motion to approve. Crutcher supported. All were in favor. — Approved

Rachel Gallagher joined the meeting late.

4. Public Safety Update

Chief Demers announced his retirement to the committee. He also took the opportunity to introduce the Deputy Director of Public Safety, Ted Warthman, as the new public safety representative to the parking advisory committee.

Upon hearing the news, all committee members took a moment to both welcome officer Warthman and to congratulate Chief Demers on his retirement, thank him for his service to the community and wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Chief Demers offered some observations about the efficacy of the parking committee. He said when compared to what other communities are doing, Farmington's approach to managing and enforcement is very effective. Over the years, he has gotten very few complaints from the public and the business owners. People understand where they should park and how long they are permitted to park. This has built what he characterizes as an "atmosphere of compliance." He also said the data supports that. The reports from both October and November are very consistent with the amount of

violations from prior months. Moving forward, he urged the committee to pursue only enforceable ordinances and to implement only as needed.

5. EV charger update

David Murphy provided an update that the spaces that are currently under consideration are on Oakland and Grove Streets for a total of four parking spaces dedicated to electric vehicles. He expects a potential plan for installation to materialize in March / April.

6. Discussion on Developers who Lack Parking Spaces

Murphy apprised the committee that he spoke with the City Attorney. The city does not have the ability to tax private spaces if the property owner refuses to let the spaces be used by the public. The exchange between Murphy and the City Attorney is on file in the City Manager's office.

7. Metering Private Parking Lots

Discussion centered on imposing fees on new development that does not meet minimum parking standards. Mantey said this topic had been explored and researched a few years ago. He said he would search for the minutes and share them with the committee at the next meeting.

Further, Mantey read a passage from the High Cost of Free Parking, by Donald Schoup. The author does not support minimum parking spaces per business through the planning ordinances. However, where parking minimums do exist, he seems to support fees in lieu of meeting those minimums. Mantey offered to pass the book over to Maria Taylor and said he would drop it off at city hall for her. Mantey stated he does not feel that now, during compulsory closures, is an appropriate time to discuss this topic.

8. Items for future discussion

Crutcher would like the city manager to look into allocating more spaces for short term parking to better facilitate take-out delivery services such as GrubHub. This is currently in practice at the 9-mile and Farmington Road shopping center.

Over the next six months, Mantey and Taylor agreed that the committee could explore the possibility of amending the minimum parking ordinance.

9. Committee comments

Taylor said the meeting was productive.

Halas said that Chief Demers had provided the committee with a powerful, community oriented strategy. He suggested that the committee's actions and behaviors should continue to support an atmosphere of compliance. Furthermore, the data gathered from

the parking enforcement officer should continue to guide committee decisions and actions.

Mantey reminded the committee that we need to elect officers in January.

He also mentioned that the hay bales and pumpkins from the Grand Raven Festival needed to be retrieved by the DDA.

Hoping for some clarification on this topic from the next parking committee meeting: As we looked at our budget, the question was raised about where the fees go when violators pay their tickets. Do we have a breakdown of how much goes to court fees, how much goes to the city, etc? Please add the agenda item if this information can be provided for next Wednesday.

10. Public Comment: None

11. Adjournment 8:06 pm