

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 20, 2016

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Department.

Members Present: Ms. Jessica Faison Mr. Brian Farkas Mr. Charles Moore
 Mr. Will Russ Mr. Dave Schwartz

Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Mulligan Mr. Lamont Jackson
 Mrs. Rachel Manning Mrs. Bianca Shoneman

Guests: Ms. Ann Maxwell

Council Liaison: Council Member Rick Smiley

I. WELCOME

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order and established a quorum was present.

II. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2016 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Farkas to approve the March 16, 2016 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Shoneman and passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking Deck Art Project

Mr. Mulligan gave an update on the parking deck art project. He stated there has not been much progress over the past month. However, there is a meeting scheduled within the next week to discuss what the next step is with the project. He plans to have more information at the next meeting.

2. Paid Parking Discussion

Mr. Russ brought up a discussion about paid parking at the parking deck. He questioned why meters were chosen for the parking deck and not “pay as you leave” (entrance/exit arms). Mr. Mulligan explained how meters maximize the number of parking spaces and are cost efficient. Council has suggested that “pay as you leave” parking be assessed. Although the entrance/exit arms would make the parking deck more secure, it would incur costs and parking spaces would be lost.

The city manager has appointed Roger Johnson to manage the parking assessment of the Uptown area. He will be contacted by Mr. Mulligan for future attendance at the commission meetings.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. GTAC

Mr. Mulligan gave a brief report on GTAC. He stated the final design had been presented to council. It is expected to go out for bid in May and will be awarded sometime in August.

VIII. OTHER – FYI

1. GREAT Monthly Report

Mr. Jackson presented the GREAT monthly report for review. He stated ridership is still continuing to increase. Also, Transit is spending less and remaining under budget.

2. Upcoming Projects & Meetings Information

Lamont Jackson stated there were no upcoming projects and meetings to announce.

3. Ann Maxwell – Environmental Advisory Commission

Ms. Maxwell joined us from the Environmental Advisory Commission to address some questions and concerns they have. She asked if there was any significant move toward merging the ECU bus system with the GREAT bus system. Mr. Mulligan explained there was not at this time, although the question has been raised numerous times. The GREAT bus system, Vidant and ECU all operate separately. The GREAT buses are Federal funded, whereas ECU and Vidant are not. Ms. Maxwell also questioned the admissions of idling buses. Mr. Jackson explained the buses only idle at the transfer point. Ms. Maxwell then asked if there has been any move toward engines with less admission. Mr. Jackson explained the city does have two hybrid buses, as well as two clean diesel buses. They both operate more efficiently with less admission. Lastly, Ms. Maxwell suggested the city host a “no car day.” Therefore, for means of transportation, citizens would ride bicycles, or use the GREAT buses. Mrs. Shoneman stated the city participates in “parking day,” which is a national movement used to raise awareness about tactical urbanism. The idea is to take over parking spaces in a different format. The city built a pop-up park in the Uptown area complimented by bagged lunches and live music. “Parking day” was much easier to implement, and is in the plans to happen again.

IX. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 18, 2016

There were no proposed agenda items.

X. ADJOURN MEETING

With there being no further business to conduct, Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Russ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Manning, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission