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**PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL VIDEOCONFERENCE
AND TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 26, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Eric Rains, Chairman
Jud Aley
Matthew Seebeck
Pamela Parkington

STAFF James Emery, Asst. Parking Director, TMP

OTHERS: Stathis Manousos, LAZ Parking
Rocky Legesse, LAZ Parking

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rains called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**** MS. PARKINGTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER.**
**** MR. SEEBECK SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1. PUBLIC COMMENT- LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES EACH SPEAKER

Ms.Cece said under new business item 5B, there is a discussion by Mr. Emery regarding a residential parking permit program and said she can't stay for the meeting and asked if there are documents that can be emailed to her because she is curious if it is for one area of the city or if it will be throughout the city as needed. Mr. Emery said there are no plans or documents to email but as he has been going through things that had been left over from his predecessor one of the things was a residential permit parking program and the money has been set aside for that and he thinks that it is something that is needed. He said the discussion tonight was that he is going to make the members of the Parking Authority aware that this is something that staff will be taking on and start looking into next week. Ms. Cece said that pockets of East Norwalk have been lobbying for this for years and the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association would like to assist in this and provide whatever feedback and collaborate with the Parking Authority on this and she will send an email with their contact information.

2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RELATED TO MINUTES FROM THE PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022.

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. SEEBECK SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss and vote-Norwalk Public Library Request

Mr. Emery read a request that was made by the Norwalk Public Library asking for free parking and said they are requesting free parking on Mott Avenue on Friday, November 4th and Saturday November 5th for their Indy and local author celebration but said that the library does have their own lot. Mr. Legesse added there are 37 spaces in that lot. Mr. Emery said they also have 8-10 free 30-minute spaces on Mott Avenue in front of their building and just added another additional 20 spaces on Byington Place that are 2-hour timed spaces so there is no charge for those spaces and in his opinion free parking especially on street is a slippery-slope and the on-street parking on Mott Avenue is .50 per hour.

Mr. Aley said last year an organization requested parking at the Yankee Doodle Garage for an event they were having on the green and he thinks that would be a better option because it has been done in the past and it would also get people to walk through the Wall Street district.

Mr. Seebeck asked if the parking lot at the library is enforced. Mr. Emery said it is technically under the jurisdiction of the Parking Authority but are not doing any enforcement at this time. Mr. Seebeck said with the 37 spaces in the lot plus the 20 spaces on Byington Place he is not inclined to offer much more than that unless we really want to adapt people to the Parkmobile app. Platform and in that case, he suggests providing a promotional code to see how many people actually use it and may be a benchmark for events in that particular area.

Ms. Parkington asked if the library stated how many people attended last year's event. Mr. Emery said "no" but said that it is a big event. Ms. Parkington said she is leaning towards what Mr. Aley had suggested and offer the Yankee Doodle Garage and have the library validate for parking.

Mr. Rains said there have been other groups that have made the request from various parts of the city, and he also thinks it is a very slippery slope and the proximity of the entire garage being available and offering free parking like what was done for the Earth Day celebration would be a good option but is not in support of offering free on street parking.

Mr. Emery said staff will do their best to get the Parkmobile codes and allow them to use them for their event so that it can be tracked but clarified that if they can't get the codes in time the only option would be is the garage would need to be free for everyone.

**** MR. SEEBECK MOVED TO APPROVE OFFERING THE YANKEE DOODLE GARAGE FREE FOR THE NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENT ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022, AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022.**

**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) Discuss and vote- ParkMobile Holiday Give Away

Mr. Emery said he is requesting up to \$1500 of the NPA's funds to purchase gift cards from local restaurants on Washington Street and Wall Street and over the holiday season provide a giveaway for people who use ParkMobile in that month, and also do random drawings which will be promoted during the holiday extravaganza and the Miracle on Wall Street which will not only promote ParkMobile but also have a nice outing in Norwalk especially over the holiday season. Mr. Rains asked if the restaurants that will be pursued are adjacent to the Parking Authority's assets. Mr. Emery said "yes". Mr. Aley suggested that it is stated somewhere on the gift cards that they were made possible from parking funds.

**** MR. SEEBECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$1500 FOR THE ASST. DIRECTOR OF PARKING FOR TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING TO SOLICIT BUSINESSES FOR GIFT CARDS TO INCREASE ADOPTION OF THE PARKMOBILE APPLICATION.**

**** MS. PARKINGTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b) Discussion- Residential Parking Permit

Mr. Emery said the City of Norwalk is long overdue for a residential permit parking program and it has been in the budget, so the funding is available, and the goal is to have this up and running by the next beach season and would tie directly into the same zones that are currently used and be enforced by license plate recognition. Mr. Rains asked if it would require a charter change. Mr. Emery said if may and he is looking at all the current charters. Ms. Parkington said she has been contacted by several neighborhood groups requesting this because of beach and fireworks parking and the biggest one being at the end of Cove Avenue where there is public access for kayakers which takes up all the on-street parking. Mr. Rains asked if this would coincide with the budget process so that modifications can be made for additional staff if needed. Mr. Emery said "yes" and will pay close attention to the budget so that there are enough funds available and will be upfront and transparent if any of the surplus is needed at the beginning to start the program. Ms. Parkington said if the East Norwalk area is used as the pilot for the program she will work with Ms. Cece and the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association and help them sign up.

3. FINANCIAL AND OPERATING REPORT

Mr. Manousos reported and said that revenues are up, and expenses are down, and the fund balance is very favorable to budget and will accumulate until it is spent down later in the fiscal year once the repair and maintenance projects are finalized as well as the special projects that may or may not be done.

Mr. Manousos said for the month and year to date comparison to last year the total revenue is down 3.6% and is mainly due violations being down from last year by almost

\$90,000 which is a good sign for the operations because the other revenue components are up from last year which signals compliance which is what the objective was.

Mr. Manousos said compared to pre-Covid the revenues are still down 14% and expenses are also below budget of 6.81% but debt service is up from pre-Covid levels which off sets some of the expense savings in other areas.

Mr. Manousos said that transient activity is up almost 3% from pre-Covid levels but revenue is down 5.7% and is due to the railroad facilities and the permit sales are still lagging pre-Covid levels.

Mr. Manousos reported on the on-street parking and said it is up almost 9% above pre-Covid levels and noted that the Pay by Cell component of the transient revenue represents about 40% of the transient revenue.

Mr. Manousos reported on the enforcement and said that issuance is decreasing but the ticket issuance vs demand has increased slightly to just over 2%.

Mr. Rains asked for an update on the ticket issuance vs. demand on where the concentration of tickets was being issued that was discussed last month. Mr. Manousos said that he can show a graphic of where the locations are, and that Mr. Legesse did a phenomenal job on getting the information together. Mr. Manousos presented the ticket issuance report and said that 67% year to date were issued for expired and time limit violations and the areas that the most activity was seen aside from the beach areas were Webster Lot, Washington Street and the Haviland upper deck and a large fraction of tickets that were issued were in the evenings and on the weekends and 64% of the tickets issued were up until 6:00PM and the remainder after that. He also said that out of the 67% of the tickets that were issued that 76% were issued in the SONO area and 22% were issued in the Wall Street area and the remainder were in the zones on West Avenue. Mr. Aley asked if there is a report that includes which streets had the most ticket issuance. Mr. Emery said that staff is working on that and will present it to the Parking Authority so that there is an understating of it and if there is anything else they would like to have added. Mr. Rains requested that the report be marked as draft until it is finalized.

He also asked how the parking will be handled for the holiday events on holiday extravaganza and the Miracle of Wall Street. Mr. Emery said that is something they are considering as they put the two programs together and will be reaching out the Parking Authority via e-mail if changes will need to be made for a possible higher demand of parking.

4. ENGINEERING AND PROJECT REPORT

- a) Update-Haviland Deck Membrane Repair
There was no discussion.
- b) Update- South Norwalk Train Station- Concession area build out
There was no discussion.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Update- Miracle on Wassa Street and Holiday Extravaganza
There was no discussion.
- b) Update – Wall Street 3-hour changeover
There was no discussion.
- c) Update- South Norwalk Train Station Garage- Bike parking area
There was no discussion.
- d) Update- East Norwalk Train Station-Bike racks
There was no discussion.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SEEBECK MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. ALEY THE MOTION**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd