



CITY OF NORWALK
PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
April 27, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Julius Hayward
Mike Harden
Richard Brescia
Jud Aley
Olga Arteaga

STAFF: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director
Kathryn Hebert, Administrative Services Manager
Vanessa Valadares, DPW Junior Engineer
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

OTHERS: Stathis Manousos, LAZ Parking
Rocky Legesse, LAZ Parking
Tim Sheehan, Redevelopment Agency
Jackie Lightfield, Norwalk 2.0

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public attended.

BUSINESS PORTION

1. PRESENTATION- NORWALK 2.0

Ms. Lightfield discussed the validation parking program that New Haven has to help restaurants, and said that the parking is validated in the garages in an effort to make it convenient for people to park and make their dining experience more enjoyable. She discussed the collaborative validation parking program and said that the program includes participating restaurants that validate parking for customers who spend a certain amount of money in their specific restaurant. She said that the Parking Authority, through the New Haven Special Services District, sell discounted payment vouchers to the restaurants for them to give to their customers, and that the

parking is available in two municipal parking garages, not on street or in the open parking lots. Mr. Manousos explained that the validation in the open lots and on the street would be through tokens that would be offered in a similar fashion to the merchants to give out to their customers, but that the difference is that in the garage you pay as you exit, and on the street and the open lots you would pay when you arrive, therefore, the tokens would be used on another trip. Ms. Lightfield asked if the on street meters and paystations could offer on the spot validation. Mr. Manousos said that at this point, that technology is under development, but that it most likely will be available when the Parking Authority replaces existing equipment in the next several years.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

**** MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hebert reported and said that the year to date financials are in good shape through March 2016, and show increases in activity and revenue compared to last year at the Haviland Deck, Webster Lot, North Water Street, on street and at the South Norwalk Railroad Station. Mr. Hayward asked what the spike in revenue in the Wall Street area was attributed to. Mr. Manousos it was due to receiving the easement payment for the construction on the Burnell Boulevard Bridge. Ms. Hebert said that the revenues year to date at Haviland Deck are lower compared to last year due to the construction in the area, and some restaurant vacancies during this fiscal year. She said that expenses are lower due to the light snow season, and that there will be an increase in expenses seen through the end of the fiscal year for spring maintenance and clean up, communication and press for the implementation of the new rates, payments for the pre payment widget and scanners at the Maritime Garage for the collaboration with the Maritime Aquarium, the scanners at the South Norwalk Railroad Station, and the updates at the Yankee Doodle Garage. Mr. Hayward asked about the change in the variance report. Ms. Hebert said that was due to there being increased activity at Haviland Deck due to the change in the hours of operation on Elizabeth Street.

2. OPERATING REPORT

Mr. Manousos reported and said that the trends are seasonal for transient parking at all locations and that the numbers reflect that. He reported on the status of the prepayment widget collaboration with the Maritime Aquarium and said that it is being tested now and is expecting to be fully implemented by the end of May. Ms. Hebert said that she will be working with the aquarium to send out a joint press release. Mr. Manousos reported on the increase in pay by cell usage due to the facebook ad and the community college collaboration. Mr. Hayward suggested circling back to the college regarding the success of the marketing campaign. Ms. Hebert said that she has done that several times and have shared the information with them.

3. WALL AND SONO OUTREACH

Mr. Brescia said that staff has been doing an excellent job on the outreach that is being done communicating this payment option to merchants which has also contributed to the increase in pay by cell transactions and revenues, and that the merchants are communicating this payment option with their customers. Ms. Hebert said that the staff goes door to door to the business's introduces themselves, explains where the parking authority offices are located, who to contact and hand out and explain the pay by cell option. She said that the response has been very positive and that they will also hand out and explains the pay by plate instructions as another payment option in the open lots. She said that after the improvements to the office space at the Yankee Doodle Garage are completed, the office will be set up as a satellite office with customer service staff who will be assigned to assist customers, perform outreach and parking administrative tasks. Ms. Hebert said that the Pay by Cell smartphone application is just the beginning of the mobile platform options. Sooner rather than later comprehensive mobile platforms will be available to the public as "complete trips" which links the transportation and parking applications into easy to use and access mobile platforms. Both industries are working together to establish those connections.

4. PARKING PROGRAMS

No discussion.

5. BURNELL BLVD BRIDGE /TRANSIT DISTRICT BUS QUEUE

Mr. Chimento, Ms. Valadares and Ms. Hebert presented the request by the Transit District to allow the busses to park on the Burnell Blvd Bridge. Ms. Valadares explained that the doesn't make sense for several reasons; the bike walk trail will be connected on the bridge and given the size and dimensions of the busses this will cause a safety and liability issue and a vehicle travel way problem to get over the bridge. Mr. Aley suggested a sharrow lane rather than a bike like. After further discussion it was the opinion from staff and the Parking Authority that bus parking on the Burnell Blvd Bridge is not an option. Mr. Chimento will contact the Transit District.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hebert and Ms. Valdares reported on the Wall Street Railroad tunnel State project and said that the State, through their contractor, will begin work on the tunnel starting mid May for about 90 days. She said that they will need several parking spaces in the Wall Lot adjacent to the tracks for access to perform the work in the tunnel, and that they will also need to block off spaces on River and Wall Street during the three phases of the project. She said that they are aware that they have to pay for the 'reserved' parking spaces inside the parking lot, and that staff will be contacting them about the on street spaces as well. She said that staff has told them that this will be a major disruption to the area, and that they need to clearly communicate to the district when and what will be happening so that everyone can plan accordingly.

Ms. Hebert reported on the status of the Bow Ties Cinema construction upgrade project. She said that they are planning on doing their project in the fall for approximately three months; but may not be shutting down completely. She said that this will impact parking during that time, however, activity does decrease in general in the fall.

Ms. Hebert said there is a possibility that the Parking Authority may be able to temporarily use the property where the state took the three houses on East Avenue for commuter parking, before they use the property for an equipment staging area for the East Avenue Bridge estimated to begin in 2019.

7. ACTION ON ANY ITEM DISCUSSED HEREIN.

No discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM

NEXT PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016, MARITIME GARAGE, PARKING AUTHORITY OFFICES, 11 NORTH WATER STREET, 5:30 P.M.