



Parking Advisory Committee

Date: October 30, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor, Town Manager's Conference Room

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Ali Carter, Daniel Amstutz, Adam Chapdelaine, Linda Butt, Jill Mirak, Howard Muise, Phyllis Marshall, Mike Rademacher, John Hurd, Leland Stein.

Guests: Darcy Devney, Jenny Raitt.

1. Approval of Minutes from 08/22/19 meeting.

PAC members voted to approve the minutes of August 22.

2. Update: Route 87 Layover Relocation and Parking Meters on Broadway.

The parking meters should be delivered by November 5. Town staff are working to find a vendor to install the new meters. There is a vendor installing meters in Brockton in the fall who may be able to do the installation in Arlington as well. Thirteen poles are also needed for the meter heads. There was discussion about notification of the public and particularly direct abutters to the new meters.

The committee discussed the relocation of the Route 87 layover. The pavement markings for parking stalls in front of Play Time need to be removed or blacked out. Bus stop markings need to be added. This should be done this fall and not wait until spring, as the Select Board already approved moving the layover. Daniel Amstutz will contact the MBTA on getting the layover signage installed and their timeframe for the move.

3. Update: Arlington Center Sidewalk Project and Broadway Plaza.

Town staff are still working with the MWRA on their project schedule to match it up with the sidewalk project and Broadway Plaza reconstruction. Staff have also been in contact with American Alarm. A public information session is to be held on November 20 to get public

feedback on the project. The committee should meet again in the next couple of weeks to review the draft construction plans ahead of the public information session.

The basic design of the project is a concrete walking surface with a trim that looks like brick but is stamped concrete. The plan is for the project to be advertised over the winter for a spring 2020 construction start. It will take a few months for the project to be completed. This does not include Broadway Plaza, which will come after the MWRA project. The Town needs to complete its plans for Broadway Plaza and send it to the MWRA as soon as possible so they can incorporate it into their work. There will be tree impacts due to the MWRA and sidewalk project work, and staff will follow up with the Tree Committee.

Jill Mirak asked about issues with the street lighting along Mass Ave and in the Plaza. Mike Rademacher explained that DPW is in the process of putting new lights on the old poles. The poles will be repainted so they will all have a consistent look. This is a cost effective way to get light back in the Plaza. They will also be working on getting power back to locations that lack poles so new ones can be put up. The lights in the Plaza will be staying where they currently are.

Mirak noted there is a need for irrigation or dedicated funds for watering planters in the Plaza. Rademacher said there are challenges for underground irrigation due to its cost and the need to have above grade fixtures protruding into the Plaza space. Howard Muise suggested looking at how neighboring communities handle watering and irrigation in their centers and public spaces, like Belmont and Winchester. Mirak added that more trash cans in the Plaza are needed or more frequent pickups of the existing cans.

Amstutz will contact the committee on scheduling a meeting before the public information session.

4. Update: Mobile Parking Payment and Next Steps.

Town staff had meetings with two mobile parking payment companies; a third was contacted but staff were not able to meet with them. Based on the meetings and understanding staff needs, staff recommend using the company PayByPhone. Passport, the second company interviewed, was promising but they have higher costs. Additionally, PayByPhone already has integration with Cardinal Tracking, parking enforcement's parking management software. Once everything is ready, it should take about 5-6 weeks to roll out the program. Phyllis Marshall noted that PayByPhone can create signs for the parking meters and help market the program as well. PayByPhone can also do parking permits, which is something staff would like to look into at a later date.

There was a discussion of the mechanics of mobile parking payment and enforcement. Zones can be created to define certain parking areas, including the surface parking lots.

There was a question about whether the 15 minutes free parking could still be used with mobile parking payment. The committee discussed various issues with the 15 minute free parking that have come up with the parking enforcement and the Treasurer's Office. It was noted that further discussion about this is necessary if the Town wishes to revisit this issue.

5. Parking Benefit District Financial Report.

Marshall provided a spreadsheet of revenue transactions per month for town FY 2019 and for the first four months of FY 2020. She noted that revenue numbers have improved significantly with the functioning meters.

Mirak asked if all the FY20 PBD revenues would be going to the Arlington Center Sidewalk Project. Adam Chapdelaine noted that \$185,000 has been allocated from PBD to this project. Other costs for next year that need to be accounted for are the implementation of the mobile parking application and expenses for new parking meters.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.