

Parking Committee

Wednesday February 12th, 2020

1. Call to Order

- a. Fort Pierce City Commissioner Tom Perona called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. Roll Call:

Board members in attendance: Marvin Grimsley, Michael Broderick, Doris Tillman, Gus Gutierrez, Anton Kreisl, Dan Cushman, Tom Perona, David Bushea.

Staff and Guests Present: City Manager Nick Mimms, Special Projects Coordinator Audria Moore-Wells, Administrative Assistant Sara Delgado and Johnathan Osorio

3. New Business

a. Overview of the Parking Committee

City Manager Nick Mimms summarized the previous Parking Committee meetings. He welcomed the Committee members to the first official meeting and thanked them for working with the City to help us get things done. He introduced Audria Moore-Wells as the Special Projects Coordinator in the City Manager's Office. She is the designated staff for this committee to aid with issues regarding parking. He also introduced Sara Delgado as the designated administrative assistant staff, to assist members with all things parking. Mr. Mimms mentioned that the Parking Committee meetings are formal, recorded, everything is a public record.

Mr. Mimms said, last year, the Parking Committee accomplished several objectives, but there were some remaining items that were not resolved. Some dealt with two certain areas which the City wants the Committee to focus on including the areas of Downtown Fort Pierce and South Beach. Downtown Fort Pierce has ample parking, but some people do not like to walk to and from the ample parking. We need to find ways to enhance the parking. South Beach has a parking deficiency. The previous informal Parking Committee recommended purchasing located on land on St. Lucie Courts some years ago and it was purchased for about \$799,000. The land has a surface parking area. Some concerns for Downtown parking are the extension on time restricted parking, which is 2-hour parking, enhancing the Marina parking, Orange Avenue loading zone. He informed Committee members that the Parking Committee is an advisory committee and their recommendations go to the City Commission. Staff cannot take directions from the committee.

City Commissioner Thomas Perona requested a booklet/email from staff of all available public parking so that the Committee may have idea on how to direct people to different parking options.

Mr. Michael Broderick suggested that there is not a lot of knowledge on the boards as to what the parking requirements are. There is no real information available. He suggested inviting Jennifer Hofmeister to the next meeting to help explain the different zoning classifications and what the parking requirements are.

b. Elections of Officers

City Commissioner Thomas Perona facilitated the Election of Officers; he asked if the Committee is covered by the Sunshine Law. City Manager Nick Mimms said the Sunshine Law covers every board and committee in the State of Florida.

1. Election of Chairperson

Motion to nominate Michael Broderick as chairperson was made by Dan Cushman. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Vice-chairperson

Motion to nominate Gus Gutierrez as vice chairperson was made by City Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Dan Cushman. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Second Vice-chairperson

Motion to nominate Marvin Grimsley as second vice-chairperson was made by City Manager Nick Mimms, seconded by City Commissioner Thomas Perona. Motion passed unanimously.

City Commissioner Thomas Perona asked how long the chairpersons' terms were. Audria Moore-Wells said it is annually, but the term of the Committee member's appointment runs according to the individual that appointed you.

4. **Committee and Staff Comments**

David Bushea asked if there is a parking study that exists with all the expansion that is happening with Crabby's and the H.D. King Plant. What study exists that indicates we meet the requirements and where are we at? In approximately two years, will we outgrow the requirements? We need to plan for the next 10 to 20 years and not what's happening right now. We need to plan for the growth.

City Manager Nick Mimms said the last parking study was done in either 2015 or 2016, but new things have transpired and there have been new developments. We might need an update on the existing study or a new study all together.

Doris Tillman said the Thirsty Turtle is opening soon and that will make a huge difference in the parking as well.

Anton Kreisl asked if the city has any resources for investigating this stuff, like a city employee or traffic engineer, or would the parking study be outsourced. City Manager Nick Mimms said the city has an Engineer and the engineer has certain individuals that he assigns the tasks of transportation and traffic engineering. There is no dedicated traffic engineer. We can identify the resources as needed and with the recommendations from this committee to the City Commission. With City Commission approval of the recommendations, they may direct staff to identify the necessary resources either internally or externally to get the job done.

Gus Gutierrez agreed with bringing someone from Planning to help educate the committee. Michael Broderick agreed that it would be great to have Jennifer Hofmeister come in and educate the committee.

Marvin Grimsley agreed with David Bushea, who said, the parking study was done in 2015 and we are now in 2020. He said, we don't have enough parking now. How do we look further down the road to see what can be obtained to have sufficient parking?

Dan Cushman asked what are the number one or top five complaints about the parking in the city. City Manager Nick Mimms said the complaints we have received about parking are parking tickets because we are enforcing the 2-hour parking provision. Also, the location of the existing free parking garage which has 465 available parking spaces. We are currently under construction for the next couple of months. Right now, only 250 spaces are available for parking. In addition, the parking garage is on the west side of the tracks and sometimes the train stays stationary and people don't want to take the walk. No one likes to park far away. Those would be the main complaints as well as the availability of parking on the beach.

Commissioner Thomas Perona said the library parking is a complaint he received as well. Not enough library parking due to the excitement and things happening at Marina Square. The parking for events, especially closing 2nd Street, limits the available parking for other activities. City Manager Nick Mimms said there is no dedicated library parking and competing uses will continue to be an issue.

Michael Broderick asked as an action item what specific action items should the committee be focused on. Commissioner Thomas Perona suggested the enforced 2-hour parking and the loading zone.

City Manager Nick Mimms agreed with David Bushea and Marvin Grimsley with thinking ahead. He said new developments, new residents, and new restaurants are coming up and the city is evolving. An actionable item would be to look at the direction of our city, look at our strategic plan, comprehensive plan and how that rolls into our parking study.

City Commissioner Thomas Perona mentioned that a future action item should be paid parking. Not an immediate action item, but something to think about in the future.

City Manager Nick Mimms said the Walker Parking Consultants' 2016 Report will be provided at the next meeting.

City Manager Nick Mimms discussed two surface areas that have been proposed for possible vertical construction of a mixed use facility and parking, one is on South Beach and the second one is right behind Subway, Sailfish and 2nd St Bistro, previously known as the JCPenney Parking Lot. It might be time to reevaluate. The study might help tell us identify possible parking options.

Actions Items:

- RFP for the original Parking Study that was done
- RFP to update the Parking Study will have to be approved by the City Commission
- Invite Jennifer Hofmeister to the next meeting

5. Adjournment

Michael Broderick adjourned the meeting at 9:54 AM.