

MONTCLAIR PARKING AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Acting Chairperson Storms called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Notice. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Commissioner Jacobs, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Silverman, Acting Chair Storms and Attorney Bakari Lee

Absent: Commissioner Church, Commissioner Typaldos, Chair Matthews, Executive Director Teubner

The minutes of the January 27, 2010 meetings were adopted on a motion by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Powell and unanimously approved by all present.

Executive Director's Report

In the absence of Executive Director Teubner, due to illness, his written report was distributed to the Commissioners. Acting Chair Storms reviewed the written report with the Commissioners as follows:

Parking Meters/Pay by Phone

Mobile Now, an operation based in Estonia, had made a presentation in early February on a system which would allow people to pay for parking by cell phone; it works like an EZ pass and there would be a \$.25 surcharge for each transaction. A patron would simply key in their meter number to activate the system. A suggestion was made to conduct a trial of this system at Watchung Plaza. Another company with a similar plan is scheduled to make a presentation to the Executive Director in early March after which Mr. Teubner will make a recommendation to the Authority.

Crescent Deck - ATM and Stored Value Cards

The ATM was installed at the Crescent Deck at Montclair Center today. It is located near the paystations by the main entrance and should make payment even easier. Mr. Teubner will provide an update on usage at the next meeting.

Enforcement Update

Mr. Teubner's written report included information on the use of handheld ticket writers which the Parking Enforcement Officers began using today. Training was conducted last week by someone the State had provided.

Upper Montclair Parking Plaza

The pre-bid meeting which had to be postponed due to inclement weather was held February 16th and attended by 7 perspective contractors. Mr. Teubner reported that he expected at least 4 contractors to submit bids which will be opened on March 17. After review and analysis he expects to make a recommendation for contract award at the March meeting.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Teubner, Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Storms had met this morning with Mayor Fried, Councilor Lewis, and Manager Marc Dashield to discuss the ILA.

Acting Chair Storms also related that representatives of Herod would be attending the next MPA meeting to discuss a possible amendment to the Church Street Redevelopment Plan. Director Teubner has suggested to them that they come in with a compromise offer.

Committee Reports

Commissioner Silverman, Chair of the MPA Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee reported on a meeting of that group held last Wednesday, February 17th. Overnight parking continues to be a major issue. Montclair Third Ward Councilor Nick Lewis, who is the liaison to the TPAC, is following up on various options which would address the problem as he is very familiar with resident concerns because of the complaints he receives from his ward. There has been discussion of a pilot project to create a larger on-street, overnight "zone". Councilor Lewis will report back to TPAC on his progress.

Ordinances addressing the parking and traffic issues at Bradford School will be up for second reading and adoption at the March 9th Council meeting. A resolution authorizing emergency/immediate enactment of the ordinances will also be introduced that evening; when the ordinances are adopted they will take effect immediately instead of being subject to the statutorily required 20 day waiting period. A good deal of prep work is being done to have everything ready as soon as the ordinances take effect, such as signage, permits, etc. A plan is also being prepared for teacher permits similar to that used at Montclair High School. Councilor Lewis will monitor the plan and let the Authority know how successful it is in dealing with the many types of parking issues related to the school. Enforcement, of course, is key.

A discussion followed regarding encroachment in the area of Valley Road/Mt. Hebron by University students. Various options on how to handle this and how to possibly generate new spaces were mentioned. Mr. Teubner had mentioned re-allocating meters and re-habbing old meters to use in that area. The counterfeit permit problem was discussed. Acting Chair Storms mentioned that Director Teubner had put together a plan to address this. Councilor Lewis also plans to ask Township Attorney Alan Trembulak to draft an ordinance to address forgery of permits with fines and penalties attached to it. Re-allocation of "permit only" spaces on weekends is being proposed as a way to provide more parking options in underutilized permit spaces. Demand needs to be determined. We believe we can find use for these underutilized spots.

Intralocal Agreement Committee

Commissioner Jacobs reported on the ILA meeting with new Township Manager Marc Dashield. He said that Director Teubner and Manager Dashield will work together to look at cost structure compared to other entities, focusing on financial issues with a target of June for completion. Mr. Teubner is also looking into other authorities and utilities to see how revenue sharing/crediting is worked out. Commissioner Silverman will also help with this research.

Presentation of the 2010 Budget

Commissioner Jacobs distributed a summary sheet of information on the 2010 budget and brief discussion followed which included thoughts on the \$825,000 lease payment to the Township and the back payment of \$40,00 plus to help make up the deficit.

Public Comment

Resident of 5 Roosevelt, Mr. Michael Gera, was present and discussed his dissatisfaction with a number of parking related issues. Among these is the issue of responsibility for snow removal in front of the Seymour Street/South Fullerton Parking Lot and cars illegally parked in crosswalks, particularly in front of the library. He also asked that the MPA meeting schedule and minutes be made available on the Township's website. And he is very concerned with the lack of enforcement, particularly in the area of Roosevelt and Seymour around the Wellmont Theatre; patrons of the venue have caused an increase in illegally parked cars on both sides of the Roosevelt and other streets around the theater. He related that a car with Massachusetts plates had been parked for over three days on the street with no tickets shown as issued. He would like to see increased enforcement. Acting Chair Storms assured Mr. Gera that these issues will be looked into, that the minutes and meeting schedule will be posted on the Township's website and thanked him for taking the time to attend the meeting and share these issues with the MPA.

Action Items

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Silverman and seconded by Commissioner Powell to adopt a resolution of the Montclair Parking Authority authorizing payment of bills. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

After some date and language changes were made, a resolution amending the budget for the fiscal year January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 was moved by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Silverman. This resolution was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

An amended version of the resolution adopting the annual budget for fiscal year from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 was adopted by unanimous voice vote after being moved by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Powell.

At 8:47 p.m. on motion made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Silverman, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Annette Speach
Next Meeting March 24, 2010