



ATTENDANCE: Richard Brescia, Chairman
Mike Harden, Vice Chairman
Tom Vetter
Jud Aley

ABSENT: Eric Rains

STAFF: Kathryn Hebert, Administrative Services Manager
Vanessa Valadares, Senior Civil Engineer
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

OTHERS: Rocky Legesse, LAZ Parking
George Tsiranides, Common Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brescia said that he will be recusing himself from discussions regarding Liberty Square but said that there will need to be a good discussion on the management of Liberty Square and that the Parking Authority will do that in the next couple of months, and make a decision and in regards to the Parking Management Plan at the Liberty Square Lot.

Mr. Bill Lasardos stated that the reason there are not many attendees tonight is because people think the change in Liberty Square is a done deal. He said that the tenants do not want to pay for parking to live there and he is afraid they may move out because of it and he does not think the meters should be installed.

Mr. Brad Lasardos stated that installing the meters would be bad for business and the business owners are concerned about the change in their profits and as owners are also worried about that. He said he is sure this works in other locations but in Liberty Square the parking has always been free and the parking is already difficult in the lot without paid parking.

Ms. Weldon stated that beautification is all well and fine and being a tenant and if the meters are installed she would need to pay for parking as well as pay rent and what is going on in the present is not being looked at and people need to have somewhere to live and park and parking is a big issue not only in Liberty Square but in Norwalk, and suggested that the Parking Authority be more mindful and considerate of the situation at hand.

Norma stated that she works at the Rowilson Agency and the parking at Liberty Square is very limited and the liquor store has trucks that come in and out which block even more of the parking spaces. She said that it doesn't seem fair after all of this time to take the little lot and change it to paid parking and it should be left alone.

Ms. Patsy Brescia stated that it has been a tense filled situation for many years and that they have owned property at Liberty Square since 1985, and the lot has been neglected by the city for all the years that they have owned there and with the new parking management plan she thinks many of those situations will be taking care of. She said that tenants have garages behind the building that are not used and there are people sleeping in trucks and cars in lot and have people from other sections of housing that is adjacent to Liberty Square use the lot. She said once the Walk Bridge construction begins she is concerned about where the workers will be parking and if there is free parking in Liberty Square they will be parking there and that will be a very serious problem, and tenants and property owners of Liberty Square may be grateful that this is happening in the next couple of months and that free parking doesn't work, the lot needs to be managed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018.

Under other business change Mr. Sheehan said that there was an issue brought up at the Wall Street meeting and it was asked if someone left prior to their two hour limit on the same street and then came back if they would be in violation with their two hour limit and asked if that is a policy" to "Mr. Sheehan asked if there is a two hour limit for the entire day for a specific street in the Wall Street area"

Under other business add “Mr. Legesse said that the system doesn’t allow us to ticket by area.”

**** MR. VETTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED TO REFLECT MR. SHEEHAN’S COMMENTS REGARDING THE WALL STREET PARKING.**

**** MR. HARDEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING SCHEDULE

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2019 CALENDAR.**

**** MR. VETTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE CIANBRO/MIDDLESEX TO TEMPORARILY USE THREE PARKING SPACES ADJACENT TO THE RAILROAD TRACK ON THE EAST LOT BETWEEN 1/11/18 AND 3/01/10 RELATED TO THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT. IN RETURN CIANBRO/MIDDLESEX WILL REPAIR THE DAMAGE CANOPY THAT CONNECTS THE GARAGE TO THE WEST PLATFORM.

Ms. Valadares said that Cianbro requested three parking spaces that are designated for 15 minute parking along the track at the South Norwalk Railroad Station and if approved they have agreed if they repaired the canopy that they could use the parking spaces and that it will be less costly since they already have permits in place.

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** MR. VETTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. HARDEN)**

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Chairman Report

Mr. Brescia reported and said that city government is undergoing a reorganization and Ms. Hebert was a part of that reorganization. Ms. Hebert said that the idea of the reorganization was to put like similar type of functions under similar department umbrellas and they had created the Department of Economic and Community Development and she is now the Director of Transportation Mobility and Parking and provided an overview of her new responsibilities and said she is very excited. She said that there currently there isn’t a budget, but she is working on that for FY 2020. Ms. Valadares will continue to be the engineer on

record for the Parking Authority. Mr. Brescia said that Norwalk Now will also be part of Department of Economic and Community Development.

B. Norwalk Now

Ms. Hebert provided an update on Norwalk Now and said things are going very well and Ms. Hebert said that the Crush event that was held on October 16th through October 20th was very successful, and that the next event will be a photography event inside the different participants businesses. She said that there are currently now over 30 participants on Norwalk Now and that Ms. Kavanagh has presented to one of the banks for high level sponsorship to cover MTA advertising on the trains.

C. Parking Capacity and Strategic Plan

Ms. Hebert said that she will schedule a special Parking Authority meeting for Walker to give a presentation on the draft recommendations.

D. Financial, Transient Activity, Courtesy Card and Operating Reports

Mr. Legesse reported and said that the systemwide revenue for the month was slightly under budget, but year to date the revenue is up almost 3% over budget and the expenses for the month and the year are slightly under budget.

Mr. Legesse said that transient activity is following seasonal trends but compared to prior months has decreased but compared to last year has increased significantly at all of the facilities with the exception of the Yankee Doodle Garage and Haviland Deck. Haviland Deck is lower due to the construction project. He said that permit activity was down for the month compared to prior months but are outperforming last year's numbers due to the construction workers parking at the Maritime Garage. Mr. Brescia said that the activity has been down at the South Norwalk Railroad Station due to the Uber and other ride sharing impacts and asked if there is an accounting of the percentage of usage of parking capacity at the South Norwalk Railroad Station on a weekly basis, and if there is more space available if the waiting list is being used. Mr. Legesse said "yes" they have and that they used to average 755 active permits and have increased it to 765 parkers per month.

Mr. Legesse reported on the Pay by Cell activity and said that there is still an increase in activity even though Haviland Deck was closed for repairs. He reported on the courtesy card program and said that 522 courtesy cards were issued for the month and that had 40 received violation tickets because they had overstayed the 20 minute grace period. He said that the total value of the courtesy cards was \$12,050. Mr. Brescia said that at last month's meeting there was some concern that there were demands from the public for the courtesy cards and that he requested that Mr. Legesse speak with the enforcement officers to see if that was happening. He said that Mr. Legesse had told him the issues of "demand" are happening three to four per week so since July 1st there have been 56 demands and during that period of time and that 5,663 courtesy cards were issued so 56

demands is less than 1% ,so he does not see that as a major issue. He said that 191 people received tickets after receiving the courtesy cards which is less than 10%.

Mr. Legesse said that the new customer service app has been rolled out and have seen in increase in use from August to September but most of the comments are still received through the customer service center by phone.

Mr. Legesse said that the new Ambassador Program employee started this week, and that the Business Intelligent Dashboard is almost completed with the system integration. He reported on the sensor project and said that they are waiting for the utility pole numbers to finalize the locations.

E. Capital Projects

Ms. Valadares reported and said that it was a busy month and that the weather was not great, but they were able to get projects done. She said that the repairs at Haviland Deck were completed on Sunday, October 19th, and that it took four weeks, and that the remaining work to be done in the next couple of weeks is to paint the railings, perform concrete patches and install the new door and that only a few spaces will be blocked as needed on a daily basis. She said that the drainage improvements on the roof level at the Maritime Garage will be completed soon and that the drains at the South Norwalk Railroad Station are pending repair and that all projects are on budget. She said that the repairs at Liberty square were completed in two weeks versus the four weeks despite the rain and the SONO half marathon, and that it was opened on Monday, October 22nd at 11:00PM. She said that most of the businesses are mostly very happy with the results and that the lighting will be installed later this month, and the cameras will be installed at a later date. Ms. Hebert spoke about the excellent job by the team and everyone pulled together to get the Liberty Square project and Haviland Deck project completed quickly with minimal disruption to the parkers.

F. Liberty Square

Mr. Brescia recused himself.

Mr. Harden said that the Liberty Square lot has been paved and stripped and the conduit has been installed for when the pay stations are installed. He discussed the comments and concerns that have been received from the owners, tenants and residents during the public comments but on the positive side 15 minute parking actually helps the retail location and he thinks the positive effects of installing paid parking outweigh the negative effects. Mr. Aley said by having the paid parking it would eliminate people parking in the lot for free and walking over the bridge and going to South Norwalk. Mr. Vetter said that the benefit from the improved lot justifies some sort of payment and by having the 15 minute free parking should alleviate some of the concerns that have been stated, and he does not think the impacts on the landlords or tenants will be great and they will be getting a lot more for their money. Ms. Hebert read comments from Mr. Rains and he had stated that there should be a ramping up period and Liberty Square should operate at the same pricing levels as the Library with the addition of day and overnight permits and the categories as he sees them are three 15 minute free parking, hourly at .50 cents per hour, and that the

permits should be tiered daytime for \$50 per month, \$25 for overnight and limit them to two per residential unit and he sees no reason this lot can't operate the same as all the other lots in town. There was further discussion ensued and it was decided that the conversation would continue at next month's meeting.

H. Other Business

Mr. Brescia said that he had made a recommendation last month because he thought there were some encouraging results from adding the additional week of issuing the courtesy cards and he suggested doing the same thing for the first six months of next year and add one week a month to what is already being done. He said that discussion will also continue at next month's meeting.

Ms. Hebert said that the December Parking Authority meeting is scheduled for December 19th and requested that the meeting time be changed to 5:15PM because the holiday reception will begin at 6:30PM. It was agreed that the meeting time be changed to 5:15PM.

I. Next Parking Authority meeting: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 6:00PM; 11 North Water Street, Norwalk, CT.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. VETTER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. HARDEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.