

Parking Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday February 25, 2014
Location: City Hall; Parking Office

Present: Welles Guilmartin, Mark Levine, Marie Katia-Leary, Jennifer Alexander, Peter Harding, Bob Santangelo

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Welles Guilmartin
A motion was made and passed to approve the meeting of January 28, 2014.

Public Session for Agenda Items:
None

Chairman's and Director's Report

With regards to the letter received from Benesch Engineering. There was a discussion of the Arcade Garage repairs. There is apparently some public discussion happening on the Arcade in general and repairs to be made. The Committee agreed with the Engineering report that the best option was Option 1 which dealt with safety repairs vs. redoing the deck or taking the structure down. Everyone was reminded that the lower level has been closed for some time and that all users of that area have made other arrangements and there are no issues at this point.

Welles reported on the operating income and expenses. Best guess right now is that we will meet the revenue budget and that we will probably meet the expense budget. The result will be no funds available for the Reserve for the year.

Been had presented a report on the Parking Fund. Right now the Committee has the parking fund and two bond accounts open. All of these funds have been allocated for Parking Projects.

Next the budget for 2015 was reviewed; Welles used the Proposed Expense Diff between FY 2014 and 2015 for his presentation. Four areas were highlighted: the DBD request that Parking take over the street scape flowers, debt repayment increase, contractual obligations and salary increases. Welles noted that the salary figure comes from Finance but did note that Parking has one employee that is no longer needed because of technology improvements to our systems. Bob Santangelo asked that the mayor's office be notified so that the employee can be reassigned within the City. The Committee agreed with that recommendation. It was pointed out that we are in a deficit budget situation under the current ordinance.

The gates are still a problem. Geen has been moving forward to replace the gates with new kiosk's which would replace the gates. Peter and Mark brought up the issue that we have already burned on new technology and they are reluctant to approve anything unless the phrase "show me" is reality. They pointed out that the City has suffered enough with systems that aren't working as planned. Bob Santangelo pointed out that the technology is in the field. Peter and Mark just want a second look. Jen Alexander raised another point. Kiosk system did not work well in Lot A. Why not put meters around the edges of the lots (I am assuming Melilli and not the Arcade) and make free parking for an hour in the middle or assign these areas to the permit parkers as done in the Lot a model. The meters would not give the free hour as is true in the rest of the City. The Committee urged Geen to address both issues at the next meeting.

The next issue was the concept drawings for the new Arcade lot. Welles indicated that the Mayor's office wanted to proceed with Design Option 2 and that office is looking to put the issue to referendum in November. Right now the estimate for the garage would be 16 million dollars: 6 million from the Feds and 10 million would be the City's responsibility. Again it was noted that there was community discussions being held. There is a City Scape project going on and Peter felt it was premature to even discuss going forward before that study is completed and discussed. The other Committee members also felt that going forward without a more definitive plan would be doomed to failure by the taxpayers. They want a plan that people can be happy with, not a build it and they will come proposal. Geen is to relay these thoughts as the process continues.

The Lot A, Broad Street pedestrian connection is progressing to the Bid stage. The hope is to get this project going.

Geen had sent a proposed ordinance change in the monthly package. Although the Committee is amenable to going forward with using the lots for overnight residential use, they had problems with the amendment as worded. First Jen pointed out that the overall plan is to bring residential housing downtown and that many of such families might have two working persons in a household. Limiting the permits to one car per household would possibly cause a problem in attracting the right mix. Bob pointed out that the reason for not allowing overnight users originally was because the cars were not taken out timely. Welles indicated this would be an enforcement issue and we can deal with those issues. Mark indicated that Saturday usage would be a problem and the weekday hours should be extended to Saturday. Geen should report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Geen indicated that a one of the Parking vehicles is near end. Bob indicated that there might be some City vehicles being turned in and the Geen should see if those vehicles might be appropriate. If not Geen can look and price out what he needs.

The calendar for the year was attached for everyone's notice.

Finally Welles thanked Marie and Jen for their work on the ordinance. It is apparent that we really have to establish a need for the City to change. Welles suggested that the starting point is a 5 year capital study. Bob indicated it should take the form of a CRF. Welles has instructed Geen to look into what other departments are including in the CRF's (uniforms, second car, etc.) and to form a CRF committee. Welles asked Bob as to FOI requirements; he will talk to Sandra Driska Russo on the matter. A couple of points were raised by committee members: that the removal of the Arcade would fit this requirement and that the Parking Authority might consider adding parking by acquiring property. The Liberty Street property was used as an example whereas the Economic Development proposal fell through, if Parking had the funds it could have taken lead and developed the property on its own thus getting parking to the North End.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM

Respectfully submitted

Welles R Guilmartin