

CITY OF TYBEE PARKING COMMITTEE
MINUTES: August 24, 2010

ATTENDEES:

Council representatives: Bill Garbett, Paul Wolff

Staff representatives: Diane Schleicher, Mary Hogan, Jonathan Lynn, Chantel Morton,
Pete Ryerson, Joe Wilson, Jennifer Wittendorf

GUEST(S):

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul made a motion to approve the July 28 Parking Committee minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Review layout of parking spaces in Memorial Park

Mary informed the Committee that people using the Park are paying the machine when they see the Parking Service Division employees coming.

Bill suggested the stations continue to be monitored for the next six months. Pete confirmed they do not hover and they will keep considering relocating the station.

Joe updated the Committee regarding the layout of parking spaces. He presented two aerial maps showing 37 diagonal spaces and 45 straight-in spaces. The materials cost over \$3,000 for 45 spaces without parallel parking along Jones. The area cannot be re-graded and spaces will not be marked by lines. Mary reminded the Committee that the Memorial Park plan is still under consideration. It was decided to wait on the parallel spaces along Jones.

II. Parking passes policy

Bill inquired about the parking policy approved by the previous Council. Diane confirmed the current policy is that no free parking passes are provided between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The City Manager can provide a maximum of 50 authorized parking passes per event from Labor Day until Memorial Day. She recommended the amount of passes be increased to 100 which can be used for events such as with Beach Sweeps, Taste of Tybee and a few of the races. The committee discussed and agreed that the policy should be "100 parking passes for a council approved special event or other governmental agencies between Labor Day and Memorial Day may be approved at the discretion of the City manager." Diane confirmed council did not want people continuously asking for free parking and relied on the City Manager with guidelines.

III. Holiday parking

Bill confirmed that free parking has been offered Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve in years past. Paul inquired about how much revenue is lost during this time. Mary confirmed they do not have that figure. Currently the Parking Service Division is the only department making a profit for the city and this revenue was budgeted.

Chantel reported that last year was the first year free parking was publicized in ads, signage and press releases as positive publicity for the city. Jonathan spoke as a Department Head and expressed concern that they have been asked to cut budgets and with free parking the City is giving more away that is not available. Diane confirmed the tax digest dropped 10% for Tybee and 6% for Chatham County. She stated the busy season is going longer and longer now versus when the free parking started in 2006. Mary stated it is fiscally irresponsible. Paul said when they started this in 2006, the number was \$30,000. Bill confirmed the City will forego free parking this year.

Parking Service Division update

Pete reported that weekday revenue has dropped off considerably. They are cutting back on hours to save on labor budget. He has three street people on weekdays and cutting back on hours as necessary. Labor Day will bring a different traveling crowd and they will do okay. Seasonal employees will be called back in the spring. Overall revenue is up. Mary confirmed last year's revenue they were up approximately 11% above budgeted amount and most was made in April, May and June. Primarily it was up in the Pay & Display stations versus tickets. Jonathan reported that they are now working with the police department regarding people that are not paying for repeated tickets. One example given was that the police issued a subpoena and the individual will be going to court today.

OLD BUSINESS

I. CAT proposal update

Diane reported that she has told the County the city does not have money in the budget for the CAT Proposal. She also reported that the outcome of the meeting with the Tybee Island Tourism Council was that they also had not budgeted for it and they felt they do heads in beds and this would be for day trippers. They are also concerned it might create too many people coming to their event. CAT had three locations in their proposal, but would be willing to cut back as requested. Pirate Fest may be a better fit because people pay to attend that event. This can be considered for next year. Paul suggested that next year Tybee Fest could incorporate the shuttle cost in their ticket cost and advertise well in advance. Jonathan confirmed Greg Stoeffler with Tybee Fest and Charles with CAT exchanged contact information to keep the conversation going. Mary suggested a trial start with Mardi Gras.

II. Coastal Regional Coaches update

Chantel reported that Barbara has been continuing to work with Savannah's Parking Division to have a coach come from Savannah to Tybee to help relieve some vehicular congestion on the Island. Barbara confirmed the Savannah Visitor Center does charge \$1 per hour after the first hour. There would a pickup in that lot at 10am and another at 3:00pm during the week. Barbara is working on weekend times. Roundtrip the cost is \$6 per person. Barbara is ready to coordinate with Chantel to launch this with flyers at the Visitor Center and through the BHT Newsletter. Two Island stops can still be discussed. Bill expressed concern with the hours. Chantel will discuss with Barbara the choice of times and extending later into the evening.

III. Review proposed Decal Ordinance

Discussion ensued regarding the request to alter the ordinance from seasonal to weekday restrictions. Enforcement can become difficult. Pete expressed his support of seasonal restrictions. Paul recommended staying with the seasonal decal ordinance as presented. Bill agreed and confirmed that it will go before Council the first meeting of September.

Update on Tybee Island Information Providers

Chantel reported that the Information Providers program is going extremely well. Better Hometown Board Member, John Yarbrough at Spanky's has offered free water to the volunteers while they are working to show the Board's appreciation. The volunteers have received many questions about where to eat, shop and a few about the Pay & Station Display. Chantel thanked Jen for giving a volunteer the Pay & Display station Instruction sheet Saturday. This information will be with their clipboards. Lately, the volunteers are receiving more questions about where they can change clothes. The volunteers are directing them to the City's public restrooms because there is notice posted on the Pier not allowing changing.

Chantel reported that she was informed the Hut had to be relocated per Diane. Joe, Jonathan and she met and determined the new location will be near the 16th Street Crossover by the Roundabout. Jane Coslick has recommended colors and design. Chantel is waiting to hear back from her about paint, materials, and labor can be donated.

DPW installed the Information Kiosk at the Park of Seven Flags based on Craig Harrison's design. Chantel has put information in it and will add more as applicable. The Kiosk will be painted the same colors as the Info Hut so there is consistency.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.