

CITY OF TYBEE PARKING COMMITTEE

MINUTES: MAY 26, 2010

ATTENDEES:

Council representatives: Wanda Doyle, Bill Garbett, Paul Wolff

Staff representatives: Diane Schleicher, Mary Hogan, James Price, Chantel Morton,
Pete Ryerson

GUEST(S):

Frank Kelly, Dale Williams

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wanda made a motion to approve the April 30 Parking Committee minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Parking Ambassador Concept

Wanda requested a parking ambassador concept be implemented if possible. The ambassadors would not be the parking department, but a group of volunteers trained in customer service to answer questions from tourist (i.e. how do I pay to park, where is the Lighthouse, etc.). Mary reported Diane Kaufman requested this as well and that Diane K. asked what she could do help. Mary thought the Tourism Council could assist in order to relieve Parking Service staff. Mary also asked Diane K. to help by having local businesses put placards in their window showing that they give change to visitors. Chantel reported that she too has heard about this concept from businesses. She spoke with the YEPPIES a few months ago. Hillary has also been contacted for assistance from kids at the YMCA. Chantel introduced the concept of Tybee Island Information Providers (T.I.I.P) to the committee. These volunteers would provide information in the Southern portion of the corridor Thursdays through Sundays with 3 hour shifts. Businesses provide information already. Wanda asked that this be implemented as soon as possible. Chantel may have some money left in her supplies budget to provide hats or t-shirts to signify they are information providers. Diane Schleicher wants to be sure they are not accepting "tips" and that the volunteers are trained on the pay and display machines. Chantel confirmed interested people would be trained at an orientation hopefully at the beginning of June. Paul suggested t-shirts say Tybee Information Providers and that flyers go out. Chantel will include information about T. I. I. P in her next article. Wanda suggested contacting Diane Kaufman as well.

b. Parking Information Sign at Entrance to Island

Wanda said a sign with a catchy slogan at the entrance of the Island about paying to park has been discussed for a long time and she wants to see this happen. Bill agrees that the message should be subtle but still obvious. Diane reported the flashing sign, such as was used for Beach Bum, is in the proposed budget. Paul said this is not the vehicle to use. Paul reported that Chantel has been working with Frank McIntosh on a banner design. Chantel said there are two options; one is horizontal and the other is vertical. The vertical would allow the current two horizontal banner locations to remain available. The main message would be about Tybee being a Pay to Park Community with a reminder to Keep Tybee Tidy. Wanda said she prefers a vertical sign and she is interested in getting the message across about Pay to Park. Paul does

not feel that there is a problem with two messages and Bill agreed. Chantel will email the draft design to the committee once it is ready.

c. Change machines

Wanda asked for an explanation as to why only \$500 quarters are put into the change machines. She went by a machine between 10am and 11am and it was empty. Diane & Mary confirmed businesses are depleting the machines. Mary said businesses can obtain change from City Hall during office hours. This would actually save the city money because we are currently charged for the bank to process quarters. Chantel reported that she has talked with some businesses that have been reported using the change machines. She talked with one business that currently receives change from their business office. Their office will increase the amount they give to that business location. There is another business owner that told Chantel and other committee members he will continue using the machines. One suggestion this merchant made was to have stickers on the pay and display stations that state change machines are available. A number of businesses do want the change machines. Paul suggested continuing to encourage businesses to come to City Hall for change and to give change to their patrons. Frank suggested offering retailers a Parking Pack to sell. This pack would include 18 quarters and a parking information sheet which they could sell for \$5. They would make a 10% profit for selling \$4.50. Frank suggested the merchants put the packets together. Bill said it is something we could put out there as a suggestion.

Chantel reported that the Denise Dubuque told her the Breakfast Club did come into City Hall for \$100 in quarters. Therefore, the word is getting out. It will just take time for others to catch on. Wanda said she gives quarters to customers at Doyle Landscaping. Paul confirmed it is positive PR.

d. Parking Substation

Wanda asked if Parking Substations would benefit the Parking Services Division and or the Ambassador Program. Diane confirmed there is a Parking Substation currently by the Marine Science Center. Bill thought this could be incorporated into the ambassador program. Diane suggested using one of the Huts being stored by the Ceramics building. Diane said it could go in the Park of Seven Flags and serve in place of a kiosk if it is not too big. Chantel will measure the structure. Wanda envisions the information center be dressed up. Paul suggested if it does fit it should be dressed up as a Tiki Hut. Diane and Chantel discussed that the BHT Design committee would design it. Pete said electricity for AC is necessary and Diane confirmed electricity would be available. It would also have a lock such as the current Substation Parking Services uses.

e. Staffing level for Parking Enforcement

Mary and Pete confirmed parking staff is averaging 420 – 460 hours of work every two weeks. Paul asked how many more seasonal people are needed. Pete confirmed they could use two more seasonal employees. Paul and Bill inquired if the Parking staff drive or walk. Pete reported that staffing and accessibility is weather oriented. They typically drive because it is difficult to get everyone to wear helmets due to the heat. Walking patrols are in the south end. Two additional people would pay for themselves. Mary confirmed that the full time year round permanent position replaces the budget money from Frankie's job. Pete's been doing his job and some of

Frankie's job. Interviews start in June and the position starts July 1. Diane confirmed that with two more part-time positions there would be more revenue and the budget would be revenue neutral. Pete confirmed that on a busy Saturday 50-100 citations could be issued. This ratio would continue by adding staff. Most of the citations are from parking illegally because compliance is easily in the 80%. Paul requested information about how to increase the tickets we collect. Mary confirmed they are working on this issue. She recently sent Chief Price an email about this. Currently, they look up their license tag, send them one late notice, and schedule them for a late administrative hearing. If offenders still do not pay, then they are sent to a collection agency. The policy can be changed if necessary. Chief Price will consult with Savannah for information about their process for violations for unpaid tickets.

f. Parking in Back River / Inlet Area

Diane shared pictures with the committee from Sunday at the Chatham parking lot. Currently, trailers are in the right-of-way. Saturday and other busy times this lot is full. Parking was blocked south of the area when the movie was being shot. Bill confirmed Joe's concerns with not being able to get to the right-of-way for mowing. Diane then showed pictures of the 18th St. parking lot at the curve. Diane talked with Allan and he confirmed when people try to park where the palm trees are because parking lots on Butler and Chatham and 19th are full, there is a public safety concern. If they pay for parking they do not get a ticket because they are parked on city right-of-way. Diane suggested that No Parking signs be posted where boats are currently. Parallel parking is currently being done. Paul suggested having parallel only on the right side of Chatham and no parking on the left side.

Frank brought to the committee's attention that there is a law which states parking spaces must be marked so people can park in a space. This law goes back to 1948. He suggested this Ordinance (66-133) be updated. Paul asked Mary to look at this ordinance. She will consult with Bubba.

Diane showed pictures of Inlet by Arby's. She conveyed a request by Frank to have meters in the grass area and to have angled parking. At the Inlet parking lot, after a meeting with residents two years ago, a sign was put in for parallel parking only. After July 1 she suggested adding parking stops to define parking spaces in the parking lot. Loading and unloading signs for kayaking are still posted. When the 19th Street lot was done and parking stops plus parallel parking were added some parking was lost with pay and display, but public safety was improved. This is similar to the North Beach parking lot improvements and conformity.

g. Towing

Bill asked why people are not towed if parked illegally. Mary confirmed we would need to go off island to find a towing company because there is no one on island willing to provide this service. Chief Price confirmed that most of the vehicles needing towed are in too tight of areas to get a tow truck in to take the vehicle. If they are blocking a driveway, Chief confirmed they would be towed.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review proposed Decal Ordinances

Bill clarified that the ordinance would restrict parking for vehicles to no more than 24 hours. Dale confirmed the clarification and Diane showed pictures of trailers for him. Paul asked if the 24 hour maximum has been discussed further. Diane confirmed the

recommendation is no more than 24 hours. Bill and Paul said to Dale that there should be a remote location for tour guides that need parking longer than 24 hours. Paul made a motion that trailer parking be restricted with or without a decal for no more than 24 continuous hours. This will be island wide. Bill seconded the motion. Dale asked how people will be educated. Paul suggested signage.

b. Review status of metering Memorial Park

Diane confirmed Joe has roped off areas not for meters for the safety of the playground. Pete confirmed recycled plastic parking stops are on order. 40 – 50 spaces have been added inside the park. There will be Pay to Park signs placed on Jones.

Chantel read the action items per Bill's request:

- 1) Chantel will move forward with reaching out for volunteers for the Information Provider program.
- 2) Chantel will email the Parking Information banner at the entrance to the committee.
- 3) Continue working with business to come into City Hall for quarters instead of using the change machines. Mary will continue to make sure they are full and add money when more staff is available.
- 4) Chantel or someone she knows will measure the Hut as a possible substation for volunteers and information. She will talk with the Design Committee about the design. Pete and she will look at the Park of Seven Flags for a possible location based on size.
- 5) Mary and Pete will add to the seasonal staffing budget.
- 6) Diane will look into adding curb stops and no parking signs on a portion of 19th St. and going up Chatham. Pete will look at how many spots are available on one side versus another. Mary reiterated that the extreme busy days equate to approximately 100 days with the weekends being the worse.
- 7) Diane will ask Joe and Danny to post No Parking signs on a section of 12th St. on the marsh side where people are parking.
- 8) Wanda wants to look into amending Ordinance 66-133.
- 9) Towing cannot be done. Chief Price has that under control.
- 10) Trailer parking motion was made and seconded. Diane confirmed when people buy a trailer decal they will be told it is only good for 24 hours in a space.
- 11) Chief Price is going to talk to Savannah about collection and guidelines for attaching it to registration.

Paul asked how much it cost to reprogram meters currently charging \$1.00 versus \$1.50 per hour. Mary will look into this request.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.