

Wednesday October 3, 2018

The Vehicle Parking District committee met in the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce board room, 609 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, NE on Wednesday, October 3, at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present *Brandon Doke, Jessica Gordon, Pat Carney, Lacey Porn, Lyle Lutt, Lisa Blackman, James Wapelhorst, Brad Love.*

Guests Present: *Russ Wilcox, Doug Stebbing, Don Miller, and Beth Foland, Stephanie Bates*

Minutes recorded by: *Denise Wilkinson*

Call to Order:

1. **Welcome** – Wapelhorst called the meeting to order at 8:10 am; Notice of the open meeting act was posted.
2. **Attendance** – Denise took roll call of attendees.
3. **Approval of minutes** – Porn motioned to approve minutes, Doke seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Invoices

The motion to approve the invoice from Power Pages was moved up on the agenda. Wapelhorst made a motion, seconded by Doke to approve the invoice from Power Pages in the amount of \$175. Voice vote, motion carried.

Regular Agenda

Discussed appointments to be approved by City Council. The potential appointees are Lisa Blackman, Brandon Doke, Steve McNally and Chad Barnhill. Motion made by Wapelhorst to send those recommendations to City Council for approval, seconded by Porn, voice vote, motion carried.

1. Discussion on potential changes to the parking policy-went through discussion from last meeting. A letter was read from business owner, Doug Stebbing, who rents 15 spots. The letter outlined the importance of those spots to his business. He has personally paid for the spots for the last 23 years. Stebbing requested lines between residential and employees parking be clearly defined. Right now, all vehicles must be removed by 10 pm unless residential tagged. Discussion was held on residential and employee designated tags. Lots were designed for employees and residents and front spots for business owners. Discussion was held as to retail expansion and running out of space. It was noted that the parking lots are not being used to their full potential which was a pro to combining residential and employee spots. Some expressed concern as there is some lots with numerous empty spaces. Doug discussed his position supporting designated residential parking. Discussion was held to make all one-color tags to eliminate confusion and cost savings to have one color tag and signs which would open more spaces. Discussion was held that since these lots have been taken for so long, it has taken parking away from other businesses and landlords. All agreed the goal is to determine how best to use the concrete space we have and utilize it most effectively. Need to look at growth for a 10-year plan and adapt and change or we will constrict growth. The committee then discussed the following:
 - Consensus is to not allocate specific places to specific groups. The plan needs to maximize space and be clear.

Norfolk Vehicle Parking District

The Vehicle Offstreet Parking District #1 is a special taxing district, encompassing the downtown Norfolk area, created for the purpose of providing and maintaining off-street parking lots for employees and customers of the downtown businesses. The Vehicle Offstreet Parking District #1 is also involved with downtown promotions and beautification.

VPD Board (9 members):

- Connie Geary
- Chad Barnhill 8/2018
- Pat Carney 8/2019
- Brad Love 8/2020
- Lacey Porn 8/2020
- Jessica Gordon 8/2020
- James Wapelhorst 8/2019
- Steve McNally 8/2018
- Brandon Doke 8/2018
- Lisa Blackman (Alt.) 8/2018
- John Stappert (Alt.) 8/2021

- Go to combined permits which will allow statistics to be calibrated on most used lots.
- Discussion was held for the need to change color tags every year.
- Numbers of parking spaces used and for what purpose may be skewed as the accounting of what business spots are required has not been evaluated for some time.
- Consensus is we have adequate parking, but they don't know where to park. The lack of clarity is contributing to the parking problem.
- Discussion was held on one open tag.
- Options:
 - *1 tag lot specific.
 - *1 tag residents and employee universal-drawback snow removal.
 - *Residents and employee treated the same, residents might want preferential treatment.
 - *2 restricted tag resident and employee lot specific, the same as now.
- Don Miller spoke regarding enforcement of lots, lot specific creates frustration for enforcement.
- We need to take more parking options to the City on the main streets and switch to angle from parallel parking. Traffic study needs to be completed by the City. The 2009 study which was approved by Council did include diagonal parking on 3rd street. Discussion for 5th street diagonal parking was held. Lyle suggested a subcommittee of VPD be established to research angle parking.
- Action will have to be done on the next VPD meeting regarding lots and tags.
- Discussion on snow removal plan with different parking options.

2. Discussion on Nebraska Traveler Ad-Beth Foland from Nebraska Life Magazine passed around state wide travel guide and requested VPD pay for an ad in the publication advertising downtown Norfolk. The Visitor bureau provides information for the content. Distribution is 150,000 copies and of those 42,000 go to Nebraska Life subscribers. Magazine available at rest stops and visitor centers. The cost of the promotional ad was distributed and there is no discount on multiple ads. No action was taken.

Due to time constraint, the rest of the agenda items were tabled until the next VPD meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: Love motioned to adjourn at 9:30am

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 7, 2018; Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Denise Wilkinson, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce