



Vehicle Parking District Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 19, 2018

The Vehicle Parking District committee met in the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce board room, 609 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, NE on Wednesday, September 19, at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present *Connie Geary, Lacey Porn, Steve McNally, Brad Love, John Stappert, Jessica Gordon and James Wapelhorst*

Guests Present: *Bill Mizner, Don Miller, Traci Jeffrey and Doug Stubbing*

Minutes recorded by: *Jenni Canham*

Call to Order:

- Welcome** – Geary called the meeting to order at 8:10 am; Notice of the opens meeting act was posted.
- Attendance** – Jenni took roll call of attendees.
- Approval of minutes** – McNally motioned to approve minutes, Stappert seconded. Roll call: all yays, no nays, motion carried.

Regular Agenda

- Update on Bike Rack Locations** (This is item 11 on the agenda) Jeffrey updated group on bike rack design and placement. Norfolk Specialties will make them, and the City of Norfolk will install them. Northeast Community College student designed them. They will be revealed at the Rad Tour on Saturday, September 22.
- Discussion on Artwork downtown and the Norfolk 150 committee** Geary asked if there was money for artwork and Jeffrey stated there should be some money in a Chamber account. McNally suggested decorative fork sculptures instead of artwork on a building. Jeffrey has names from city of Yankton and has Nebraska film funds to put towards a sculpture walk.
- Discussion on potential changes to the parking policy** Parking lot tags were shown to the group. McNally said \$.57 per piece. They are tear, weather and water proof. McNally would keep the stock so if one gets lost they can be printed on demand or print temporary tags for visitors. They could also be printed on the back for \$.10 per piece additional. Gordon asked if everyone would have the same tag and McNally indicated that they would be, but there is flexibility to change them however group wanted. Tags before were \$1.63 a piece so there would be more than a \$1 savings per tag. Wapelhorst made a motion to move forward with new tags. Love seconded. Roll Call: all yays, no nays, motion carried.

Geary said it was suggested for residents to be given a generic tag so they can park anywhere any time. It was also suggested that customer only signs be removed and only have signs for restricted parking. Wapelhorst recalls that there needed to be signs indicating where people can and can't park otherwise restricted signage can't be enforced. Captain Miller said the signage must match the city ordinance and that it is clear where people can park otherwise it is difficult to enforce. He said there are a handful of spots that aren't clear, but for the most part it is clear and matches code. (One exception is a lot near White Mulberry Bakery.) He thinks if only the restricted spots are marked it would be clearer as long as there is a sign that says "free parking unless marked otherwise" or something like that. Mizner shared that the ideal situation would be a sign for every spot, but when the discussion was being had during creation of signs, having a sign for every spot was cost prohibitive. Stappert wondered about having chains with signs so that it would save cost on posts. Geary wondered about bigger signs stating that parking is restricted. Mizner said if there isn't a sign right in front of the stall, it is almost impossible to ticket the person for parking there. Wapelhorst asked how many times complaints are placed about parking or parking tickets. Miller said there haven't been as much as there had been, maybe monthly. Wapelhorst said there was a lot of money and time spent on this parking plan. If we can improve it, that is fine, but there isn't money to spend on reinventing a new plan. If it can be clearer, he can understand that. McNally and Porn both said they think it is a problem. Their customers and employees have a tough time with it. Miller stated the complaints come more from business owners than customers. Love stated that many posts were fixed, and they replaced 37 signs. Perhaps some improvements can be made in some of the lots. McNally agreed that Magnolia's lot and Stubbing' lot

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



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should be looked at first. Porn suggested that perhaps every year lots could be looked at and given priority for improvements. Mizner said that if notice on the larger signs about restrictions with city code, that is sufficient, but may not stop people from parking there. The group agreed that signs at each spot would be easier to enforce. Perhaps a cable across spots with signs would be beneficial. McNally suggested to try it in a lot or two and see how it works. Stubbing said he does not want resident parking signage taken down. He is afraid that his reserved spots would be crowded, and his tenants wouldn't have parking. Geary suggested that the lot where Stubbing has residential parking be left alone, but residential spots be removed from other lots. Mizner said he sees the value of having reserved parking for residents, but there is not a requirement to have residential parking. Wapelhorst said he's never had a situation in other cities where residential parking is reserved. Gordon also stated that it may be a problem down the line when more apartments are built downtown if they, too, do not have reserved spots and perhaps we should not do that in any of the lots. Geary sees the advantage of having reserved spots for apartments. Blue tags would be able to park anywhere. Mizner said that it would have to be approved by council. Wapelhorst asked if it would be a problem during snow season. He wondered if there needs to be extra signage at the spots where there are problems. Love thinks that it needs to be thought about a little longer. Geary suggested that signs be put at every place with cable, Miller said that would be best. Wapelhorst recalls that free customer signage needed to be there because it's difficult to enforce if not. Geary said signs still state there is a 2-hour restriction and business owners do call when there is an issue. Geary suggested waiting and discussing this further next time. Miller stated there are some handicapped signs that are missing that need to be replaced. Love stated that he thinks the city may have a vendor that can get handicapped signs at a better price. Geary suggested that perhaps the green customer parking come down.

4. **Discussion on Updating website security** Gordon motion to approve to 2-year SSL certificate. Wapelhorst 2nd it. Roll call: all yays, no nays, motion carried.
5. **Invoice:** Power Pages bill submitted. Gordon motion, Love 2nd to Roll call: all yays, no nays, motion carried.
6. **Discussion on Snow Removal Plan** Snow removal Gordon will get bids. Geary said to make it open to anyone. All Seasons, Guaranteed have stated interest. Use Wilke as a comparison.
7. There is a public hearing Monday, October 1st regarding area being annexed by the river. Geary can't be there, she will get McNally talking points and he will attend.
8. All other agenda items moved to future agenda.

Meeting Adjournment: Stappert motioned to adjourn at 9:20am

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 3, 2018; Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jenni Canham, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce