



# City of Racine

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
www.cityofracine.org

## Meeting Minutes - Final Transit and Parking Commission

*Deborah Ganaway  
Alderman Raymond DeHahn  
John Heckenlively  
Mark Kowbel  
Kristin Niemiec*

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Wednesday, March 21, 2012

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 301

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### Call To Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.*

**PRESENT:** 5 - Deborah Ganaway, Raymond DeHahn, John Heckenlively, Mark Kowbel and Kristin Niemiec

Also Present: Al Stanek, Frank Serwatka, Gabriel Vargas, Tom Eeg, Tom Friedel, John Magee, Rik Edgar, Tom Karkol

### Approval of Minutes for the February 15, 2012 Meeting

*The minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.*

### Parking System Business

1. [12-7487](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from Rik Edgar requesting that parking fees for VenuWorks full-time staff be waived.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Mr. Edgar's request was denied due to the fact that City policy toward rejecting the waiving of fees has been consistent. Venuworks staff will find alternative parking.*

*Motion made by Kowbel, seconded by Niemiec to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

2. [12-7486](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to discuss the potential purchase of a 30-stall parking area at Water and Park Streets.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Commissioners indicated they are not interested in purchasing this portion of the parking lot between Water Street and the Root River at this time.*

*Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

3. [12-7493](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to discuss the 2012 Parking Ramp maintenance program and stakeholder outreach.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Commissioners were advised of the aggressive parking ramp maintenance program scheduled for this summer. One of the five ramps (Lake Ave. Ramp) will remain totally open at all times, and staff will be working with downtown business interests and renters to minimize confusion and inconvenience. The bundling of all of this activity into one year has resulted in significant savings in project costs.*

*Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

**Transit System Business**

4. [12-7488](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the BUS General Manager to review January and February BUS ridership, revenue and operations information.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*BUS General Manager Willie McDonald presented preliminary ridership and revenue information for the months of January and February. Ridership in January this year was nearly identical to January 2011 but fixed route revenue was 17% above last year. February ridership was up roughly 5% over last February and fixed route revenue was up 27% over February 2011.*

*Commissioners were cautioned that February 2011 included a full day of no BUS operations due to the 2011 blizzard and 2012 is a leap year with an extra day. The Commission agreed to reschedule the April meeting from April 18 to April 25 to allow staff to generate a ridership and revenue report for the first three months of 2012. This will be the best measure of how ridership and revenue have reacted to the fare increases and service cuts.*

*Motion made by Kowbel, seconded by DeHahn to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

5. [12-7489](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review proposals to provide commuter bus service connecting Racine with Milwaukee and Kenosha and make a recommendation for award of a contract.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** The Transit and Parking System Manager be empowered to negotiate a three-year contract with a two-year renewal option for the operation of commuter bus service with WI Coach Lines, the sole bidder responding to a Request for Proposals. The contract will specify that no City of Racine funds are to be needed for payment for this service. Federal and State funding will be the sole source of public funding. The motion recommends that the Racine Common Council authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with WI Coach Lines that stipulates no commitment on the part of the City for the ultimate cost of commuter bus service linking Racine with Milwaukee and Kenosha Counties.

**Fiscal Note:** No City commitment or obligation of funding.

*Motion made by Heckenlively, seconded by DeHahn to approve. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

6. [12-7492](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review and approve application for a 2012 "State of Good Repair" grant.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** The City of Racine authorize the application for and acceptance of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) State of Good Repair grant in an amount not to exceed \$432,000 to fund a BUS storage building roof replacement, BUS Transit Center modifications, required BUS radio frequency narrow-banding and needed replacement of maintenance equipment.

**Fiscal Note:** City Capital Improvement funding for the local share has already been approved and included in previous Capital Improvement Programs.

*Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

7. [12-7490](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review and approve a summer BUS ridership promotional campaign.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** A joint promotion with area businesses be undertaken to encourage summer BUS ridership through a campaign to have local youth prepare BUS promotional announcements as part of a radio station promotion. The BUS will provide a 10-ride pass to each qualified contestant and any other prizes awarded will be funded and supplied by the radio station and/or local businesses.

**Fiscal Note:** Funds for the promotional campaign are already included in the approved BUS budget with 80% of the cost to be provided by a Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant.

*Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to approve. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

8. [12-7491](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review and approve the revised 2011 BUS Annual Report.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 03-21-12:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*The revised report provides an explanation for the difference in paratransit ridership and revenue compared to 2010.*

*Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

## Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 P.M.*

**If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Engineering Department, 636-9166, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.**