



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Transit and Parking Commission

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 301

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, Tom Eeg, John Myers, John Magee, Christine Won, Tom Karkow, C. Judley Wyant, Jeffrey House

Approval of Minutes for the May 25, 2011 Meeting

Minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Proposed Trolley Fare Increase

1. [11-6566](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to provide the general public an opportunity to comment on the proposed trolley fare increase.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 06-29-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Al Stanek explained the action would not require any persons, families or businesses to be displaced, produce any significant environmental impact on the urban/service area, and is in conformance with comprehensive land use and transportation planning in the area. No written comments were received after providing public notice of the opportunity to comment and no one took advantage of the opportunity to address the issue at the meeting.

Motion made by Kowbel, seconded by Heckenlively to increase the trolley fares from \$0.25 to \$1.00 which will become effective July 5, 2011.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Parking System Business

2. [11-6569](#) **Subject:** Communication from Lee Jaramillo requesting reduced pricing on the 24/7 rental of eight (8) parking spaces in the Park &

Water parking lot (418 Water St.)

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on
06-29-11: Defer**

Atty. Judley Wyant, representing Northterra Development, explained the lease of spaces was important for a nearby proposed development. The developer is willing to sign a long-term (11-year) lease but would like the Commission to consider a reduced monthly lease rate in return for the longer term.

Tom Eeg explained that reduced rate requests have not been honored in the past.

Al Stanek explained that last week an additional 8 spaces in the lot had been leased bringing the total of leased spaces to 17 of the 30 available. The developer's additional 8 spaces would bring the total to 25. It was also explained there is a shortage of public parking in that section of Downtown.

Motion made by Kowbel, seconded by Heckenlively to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

3. [11-6358](#)

Subject: Communication from Sea Scouts, B.S.A., requesting permission for overnight use of the Rooney Pugh Recreation area for a council wide camporee starting Friday, August 19, 2011 and ending Sunday, August 21, 2011.

Recommendation of the Harbor Commission on 05-16-11:
Approve the request by the Sea Scouts for overnight use of the Rooney Pugh Recreational area August 19 - 21, 2011.

**Further Recommend, the item be referred to Board of Parks,
Recreation and Cultural Services and Transit and Parking**

Fiscal Note: N/A

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on
06-29-11:** Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Rooney Pugh Recreation area is under the purview of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Transit System Business

4. [11-6570](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager providing an update on the Library Parking Lot Pay Station

Demonstration Project.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on
06-29-11:** Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: None

Al Staneek explained that complications with the credit card processing arrangement for the single pay station demonstration project in the Library Lot have delayed implementation. The original target day was set in May and now is dependent on the City's efforts at restructuring how it pays for credit card transactions at all of its 12 terminals.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

5. [11-6568](#)

Subject: Communication from the BUS General Manager submitting the May BUS Operating Report.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on
06-29-11:** Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Myers reviewed the revised monthly statistical report with Commissioners.

Al Staneek commended John for the significant reduction in overtime compared to last year. He also explained that, because of variations of when 30-day pass and token revenue is received, making direct monthly correlations between ridership and revenue is difficult. He pointed out that by comparing total ridership and revenue for the combined months of May and June 2011 with last year ridership for the two months appears to have increased by 13.7% and revenue by 10.9%. Quarterly ridership/revenue comparisons to the previous year are probably the best way to accurately compare changes in ridership and revenue.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

6. [11-6567](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager submitting the May Operating Report for the WI Coach Lines.

**Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on
06-29-11:** Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Al Staneek reviewed the WI Coach Lines (WCL) Racine Commuter operating report for January through May 2011 and pointed out a significant increase in deficit apparently partially due to an increase in mileage. A meeting with WCL officials will

be scheduled to both review operating statistics but also the operating agreement between the City and WCL. The arrangement dates back to the 1990's, and essentially the City agrees to "pass-through" state operating assistance to WCL for the commuter bus service it provided between Racine and Milwaukee and Kenosha. The over \$700,000.00 of state operating assistance distributed to WCL diminishes the pot of state dollars available to Racine and other Wisconsin urban transit systems.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

7. [11-6571](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager submitting an update on transit related issues in the 2011-2013 State biennial budget.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 06-29-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Al Staneek explained that the recently passed state budget calls for a 10% reduction in state transit operating assistance for Racine in the second year of the state biennial budget (July 1, 2012 to June 20, 2013). If the cut is applied purely on a calendar basis this would essentially mean a reduction of funding of 5%, or roughly \$103,000, for Racine in 2012. If it were applied beginning in January the reduction could be twice that. It was explained that cuts in the operating budget through efficiency would be sought before cuts in service were suggested.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

8. [11-6572](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager providing an update on the need to replace aging transit vehicles and the opportunity to capture federal funding.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 06-29-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Al Staneek explained that 17 of the City's 35 bus fleet are 14 years old and well beyond the expected service life of a heavy duty transit vehicle. Keeping this old of a fleet in operation is very costly and not efficient. There are currently several federal funding programs being pursued to finance a more aggressive bus purchase program. The Commission may be asked to review required actions to enable an accelerated program in the near future.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 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.