



City of Racine Meeting Minutes

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

Transit and Parking Commission

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

4:30 PM

Room 301 - City Hall

1. Call To Order

PRESENT: Mark Kowbel, Timothy Craft, Deborah Ganaway and Laurie Kell

EXCUSED: Thomas M. Sollman

Also Present: T. Eeg, Secretary; M. Glasheen, Staff; R. Power, T. Wittig, F. Serwatka, PMTR; D. Bose; C. Mehring, Racine County Public Works; D. Clausen, Gilbane; D. Snow, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; B. Walsh; P. Johnson; one citizen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ganaway at 4:30 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes for the March 29, 2006 Meeting

to Approve the Minutes

3. Parking System Business

4. [06-1776](#)

Subject: Communication from the Racine County Department of Public Works requesting variances for the installation of canopies, doorway, intercom bollard and column caissons/pier foundations in city right-of-way, install new sidewalks, curbs and gutter, temporarily remove light pole and parking meters, and that all fees for permits, inspections and allowances on the Law Enforcement Center addition project be waived.

Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee

(4-25-06): Racine County be granted permission to conduct the following activities with the public right-of-way:

- A. Install a concrete bollard and loop detector at the entrance to the Law Enforcement sallyport;
- B. Place three (3) pedestrian entrance canopies cantilevered over the City sidewalk;
- C. Install drilled caissons along 8th Street which will extend below grade beyond the street right-of-way;

All with the following stipulations:

- 1. A hold harmless agreement be executed;

2. The County pay a \$50.00 fee for filing this item with the Register of Deeds office.
3. The County agrees to relocate the concrete bollard and loop detector, either on a temporary or permanent basis, if required by any street construction or utility construction project.

Further recommends that the request for the City to waive all fees associated with this project be denied.

Fiscal Note: There are certain fees which legally cannot be waived. In addition, it would not be fair to the City taxpayers to release all County taxpayers from contributing to the cost of these fees.

Recommendation from the Transit and Parking Commission

(04-26-06): Racine County be invoiced at a rate of \$0.93 per meter per day for lost meter revenue due to street closures during the term of the construction project at the Law Enforcement Center.

Fiscal Note: The Parking System will derive \$172.75 per week in replacement parking meter revenue for the term of the project.

Mr. Eeg stated that the only item in this request before the Commission is the waiving of parking meter hood rental rates for the duration of the project. He noted that the job will require the closure of 8th Street from Main Street to College Avenue, removal of meters between Main and Wisconsin and non-use of meters between Wisconsin and College. Based on 2005 meter revenue and the 2006 rate increase, it could be argued that the City would lose \$18,000 in meter revenue during this year long project. Mr. Eeg noted that because of the Courthouse being a destination in downtown, people will still come to that building and need to park somewhere. However, they might park in the ramp at half the on-street meter rate, or on 9th Street for free. He recommended that an amount roughly equal to 50% of the lost revenue be charged for the project, totaling \$172.75 for each week during the project.

Mr. Mehring stated that the County agreed that this was a fair solution to the request. He wondered how the billing would be arranged and what would happen if the streets were opened before the end of the project.

Mr. Eeg suggested that staff be given the flexibility to adjust the rate in light of one or both sections of the street being reopened and access to the meters regained.

Mr. Craft moved that Racine County be invoiced at a rate of \$0.93 per meter per day for lost meter revenue due to street closings during the term of the construction project at the Law Enforcement Center. Mr. Kowbel seconded and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Craft, seconded by Kowbel, that this file be Recommended For Adoption .

5. [06-1651](#)

Subject: Communication from Gilbane wishing to discuss the possibility of waiving the parking meter fee during construction of the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Expansion, when Eighth Street is closed down.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

As this matter was discussed above, Mr. Kowbel moved that the communication be received and filed. Ms. Kell seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

6. [06-1742](#)

Subject: Communication from Mayor Becker wishing to meet with the appropriate committees to discuss the selling of an excess parking lot on Villa Street between 7th & 8th Streets.

Mayor Becker explained that he has driven by the lot, fronting Villa Street and half of the Park-Villa parking lot on numerous occasions and not seen very much utilization.

Mr. Eeg distributed a map and parking lot layout and noted that while the Park Avenue side generated \$89.10 per meter in 2005, the Villa Street side generated only \$5.84 per meter for the year. With the cost of amortization of the meters and lot maintenance and lighting, the lot is losing money for the City. He agreed with the Mayor that the lot could be sold.

Mayor Becker noted that the City Plan Commission had just discussed the same issue and come to the same conclusion.

Mr. Kowbel moved that the Villa Street half of the Park-Villa Parking Lot be declared surplus and that the matter be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee for disposal of the surplus property. Ms. Kell seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption

7. [06-1733](#)

Subject: Communication from the Monument Square Art Fair Board of Directors requesting the use of Lot # 5 on Saturday, June 10th and Sunday, June 11th, 2006.

Recommendation: The Monument Square Art Fair be granted permission to lease Lakefront Parking Lot. No. 5 on Saturday, June 10, 2006 & Sunday, June 11, 2006, subject to payment of the lease costs for the parking lot in accordance with existing policies, and subject to the execution of a hold harmless agreement with the City.

Fiscal Note: The agreement will generate \$360 in revenue for the Parking System.

Mr. Kowbel moved that the Monument Square Art Fair be granted permission to lease Lakefront Parking Lot No. 5 on Saturday, June 10, 2006, and Sunday, June 11, 2006, subject to payment of the lease costs for the parking lot in accordance with existing policies, and subject to the execution of a hold harmless agreement with the City. Ms. Kell seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption

8. [06-1746](#) **Subject:** Communication from Lawrence B. Johnson requesting that the 1700 block of Hill Street be allowed to park on both sides of the street.

Recommendation: Refer this to Traffic Commission.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Eeg noted that this item had been referred to the Commission in error.

Ms. Kell moved that the item be referred to the Traffic Commission. Mr. Craft seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption

9. [06-1775](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Event Chairman for the North American Championships sailing competition requesting to use two parking lots by North Beach on August 12-18, 2006.

Transit & Parking Commission Recommendation: Refer this to Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Eeg noted that this item had been referred to the Commission in error.

Mr. Kowbel moved that the item be referred to Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. Mr. Craft seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption**10. Miscellaneous Parking System Business**

There was no miscellaneous parking system business to report.

11. Transit System Business

12. [06-1820](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit Planner regarding the introduction of the new Belle Urban System General Manager.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Power advised members that he has been provided an opportunity to be the Assistant General Manager in Tucson, AZ. He felt that the career opportunity was too good to pass up and accepted. He introduced the General Manager designate named to replace him - Tom Wittig.

Mr. Wittig noted that he is a Wisconsin native with ancestral roots in Racine. He has been managing a 220 employee transit operation in the Denver, Colorado area for the past two years, and was looking forward to returning to Wisconsin and increasing his knowledge of all facets of public transportation.

Commission members wished Ralph Power well in his new location, and welcomed Tom Wittig to Racine.

Mr. Craft moved that the communication be received and filed. Ms. Kell seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

13. [06-1810](#) **Subject:** Communication from Barbara A. Walsh, Student at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside requesting an opportunity to address the issue of the proposed cuts to the Route 9 bus service.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Glasheen distributed an updated proposal from Ms. Walsh that was received shortly before the meeting. He explained the history of the matter to date.

Ms. Johnson noted that while student fees pay for bus service, as well as a number of other campus activities, events and services, the students in charge of those fees do not fully understand the needs of individuals related to those fees.

Mr. Kowbel asked Mr. Glasheen about the timing of the funding issues. Mr. Glasheen noted that the contract with the University runs from July 1 to the following June 30. Due to the timing, summer school service is usually broken down into two parts in two contracts. Since the University was terminating service, they did not wish to run a bus service for only a part of summer school, so asked that the contract be terminated on May 12, the end of the semester, which the City has agreed to do.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposals submitted by Ms. Walsh, meeting with the Board of Regents, funding for the service and the ability to restart the service. Ms. Walsh noted that the University won't deal with the issue, and that the students control the funding.

Mayor Becker indicated that the City does not have the money, estimated to be about \$53,000 for calendar year 2006, to subsidize the route. He noted that if the University changes its mind, or if other funds are found, the City will be pleased to restart the service.

Mr. Kowbel moved that the communication be received and filed. Mr. Craft seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

14. [06-1791](#)

Subject: Request of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department to meet with Transit and Parking Commission for permission to install 6 - 10 bike racks at the State Street Transit Station.

Recommendation: The request be granted subject to coordination of locations with the Transit Planner and that all installation, repair and maintenance costs be borne by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Fiscal Note: There will be no cost to the Belle Urban System for installation of the bicycle racks.

Mr. Snow stated that his department has received a grant from Sustainable Racine to purchase and install bike racks around the City. The racks are U-shaped units that will allow two bikes to be locked to them and which do not take up a lot of space. Any racks would be installed by Parks personnel. He indicated that he met with Mr. Glasheen at the Transit Center to try and identify possible locations for the bike racks. A suitable location was found which will allow for the installation of eight racks.

Mr. Glasheen distributed a picture of the type of rack, as well as photographs of the Transit Center showing potential bike rack locations.

Ms. Kell expressed concern about the racks interfering with pedestrian and wheelchair movements, and with bicyclists impacting the movement on the platforms. She was assured that the locations would not interfere with the movement of people on the platforms.

Mr. Craft moved the request be granted subject to coordination of locations with the Transit Planner and that all installation, repair and maintenance costs be borne by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. Ms. Kell seconded and motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption

15. [06-1813](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit Planner wishing to discuss the purchase and installation of Paratransit Scheduling software for the Belle Urban System.

Recommendation: Formal bidding procedures be waived and that the Purchasing Agent be authorized and directed to negotiate with Route Match, Inc. for paratransit schedule software, installation and training for an amount not to exceed \$25,000, funding to be provided by Federal Capital Grant WI-03-0084 (80%), and City of Racine CIP Capital projects Account 105.900.5010 (20%).

Fiscal Note: As delineated above.

Mr. Glasheen reviewed the issue, noting that Belle Urban System staff had reviewed and analyzed two potential vendors and recommended RouteMatch. RouteMatch provided the best software for Racine's needs, at the best price.

In response to a question from Mr. Craft, Mr. Glasheen indicated that the software used by Laidlaw is proprietary, but that RouteMatch representatives indicated that there should be little difficulty in transferring the user data to their system. Mr. Glasheen also indicated that he did not feel that there would be any issues with Laidlaw in the transference of the data.

Ms. Kell moved that formal bidding procedures be waived and that the Purchasing Agent be authorized and directed to negotiate with RouteMatch, Inc. for paratransit scheduling software, installation, and training for an amount not to exceed \$25,000, funding to be provided by Federal Capital Grant WI-03-0084 (80%), and City of Racine CIP Capital projects Account 105.900.5010 (20%). Mr. Kowbel seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended For Adoption

16. [06-1793](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit Planner submitting the March 2006 operating and financial report for Wisconsin Coach Lines Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee intercity bus service.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Craft moved that the communication be received and filed. Mr. Kowbel seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

17. [06-1739](#) **Subject:** February 2006 operating and financial report for the Belle Urban System.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Ms. Kell moved that the communication be received and filed. Mr. Kowbel seconded and the motion passed.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

18. **Miscellaneous Transit System Business**

There was no miscellaneous transit system business to report.

The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 4:30 P.M.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Eeg, Secretary
Transit and Parking Commission*

*Approved,
Deborah Ganaway, Chairman*

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.