



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Transit and Parking Commission

*Chairman Deborah Ganaway  
Vice Chair Timothy Craft  
Alderman Raymond DeHahn  
Laurie Kell, Kristin Niemiec*

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Wednesday, February 27, 2008

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 301

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### Call To Order

*The meeting was called to order by Alderman DeHahn at 4:36 P.M.*

Also Present: T. Eeg, Secretary; M. Glasheen, Staff; C. Garner, PTMR; D. Bose; B. Prochaska

**PRESENT:** 4 - Timothy Craft, Raymond DeHahn, Kristin Niemiec and Laurie Kell

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Deborah Ganaway

### 1. Approval of Minutes for the January 30, 2008 Meeting

*The minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2008 were approved as printed.*

### 2. Parking System Business

### 3. [07-1567](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Operations wishing to discuss implementing a policy on the sale of parking meter hoods in business districts. **Mayor Becker invited to the meeting.**

**Recommendation (1-30-08):** Defer

**Recommendation (2-27-08):** Defer

*Mr. Eeg distributed a form that he had developed to try and control meter hood sales. He noted that the current charge is \$2.75/day, not the \$5.25 it should be for on-street parking. In response to a question from Alderman DeHahn, he also noted that it is costing the City about \$.036 each to purchase bags and stickers, and the City has not been charging for any of the administrative time it takes to prepare and issue the bags. The form would capture those costs for the City. He stated that the current ordinance detailed several reasons for issuing meter bags already, and recommended that the item be deferred to the next meeting.*

*Vice-Chairman Craft joined the meeting at this time.*

*Ms. Kell moved the item be deferred. Ms. Niemiec seconded and the motion passed.*

**Deferred**

**4. Miscellaneous Parking Business**

*There was no miscellaneous Parking System business to report.*

**5. Transit System Business**

6. [08-1741](#) **Subject:** Communication from Bonnie Prochaska, requesting the use of the State Street Train Depot for an Eco-Fair event on April 26, 2008.

**Recommendation:** The request be granted, subject to execution of a hold harmless agreement, and the fee for use of the depot be waived.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Ms. Prochaska noted the event would bring together a number of community organizations involved in the ecology, with the event running from 11:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., on Saturday, April 26, 2008, in conjunction with Earth Day. She indicated that the depot would be needed from about 10:00 A.M. for set-up to 3:30 P.M. for tear-down. In response to a question from Alderman DeHahn, she indicated that they have invited the University of Wisconsin - Extension to display information about recycling.*

*Mr. Glasheen reviewed the current policy, noted the parking lot off of Liberty Street is now fully open, and suggested that the fee be waived since bus use is an ecologically friendly partner. He noted that a hold harmless agreement would have to be executed.*

*Ms. Kell moved that the request be granted, subject to execution of a hold harmless agreement, and that the fee for use of the depot be waived. Alderman DeHahn seconded and the motion passed.*

*Mr. Glasheen indicated that he would be proposing several amendments to the current policy at the next meeting.*

**Recommended For Acceptance**

7. [08-1722](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit Planner submitting a request for the extension to the bus management contract.

**Recommendation (2-27-08):** Defer

*Mr. Glasheen advised members that he had asked for the proposal for two reasons. First, the Teamsters contract with PTMR expires on June 30, 2008, and the Teamsters could use the potential management contract expiration to coerce a better negotiating outcome, or simply refuse to negotiate at all. Second, it is a long process to issue a Request for Proposals, evaluate and determine a prospective management company, and with his pending retirement, Mr. Glasheen did not feel this action would be fair or beneficial to the City. He noted that several years ago, the Federal Transit Administration had lifted the restriction that contracts could only run five years. There is now no limit to the length of a contract. He also indicated there was no need for action at the meeting and the item could be deferred.*

*Mr. Glasheen noted that the Mayor has suggested that the City might want to ask for a freeze on the fee, in exchange for the two-year extension.*

*Alderman DeHahn expressed concern about the recent buyout of PTM by Veolia. His*

concerns revolved around the intentions of Veolia toward the management contracts they had acquired. Mr. Garner explained that Veolia is a company that has many subsidiaries under an Environmental Services umbrella, including a most visible waste management division, and a less visible transportation management division. Mr. Garner noted that with their acquisitions, Veolia is one of 2-3 management companies in the U.S. Mr. DeHahn wished to hear about the details of the merger and Veolia's intentions for the future.

Alderman DeHahn also expressed concern about the 3.5% increases. He noted that the City is generally stuck at a 2% levy limit increase, and larger increases force the City to make decisions involving layoffs, service cuts, and rate increases. It was noted that for the five years of the current contract, the annual increases have been 3% per year.

After discussion, Ms. Kell moved the item be deferred and that someone from PTM/Veolia be present at the next meeting to answer questions. Alderman DeHahn seconded and the motion passed.

#### **Deferred**

8. [08-1744](#) **Subject:** Communication from Laurie Kell requesting a Dart bus pass.

#### **Recommendation (2-27-08): Defer**

Ms. Kell stated that she was asking that staff investigate the possibility of issuing a monthly bus pass for DART riders, similar to the one that regular bus riders have. She stated that it might be easier for DART users to have a monthly pass they could buy monthly, rather than have to either buy single ride tickets or pay on a per-ride basis.

Mr. Glasheen noted there are many issues to investigate, such as maximum number of rides currently being provided to individuals, average number of rider per person per month, pricing for such a pass, distribution, etc. He noted that he has communicated these ideas to Ms. Kell, who understands the issues involved.

Ms. Niemiec expressed concern about the unlimited nature of the proposed pass. Mr. Glasheen stated an option might be a punch card with a certain number of rides on it, priced at a discount.

Mr. Garner stated that his concern is that a pass is usually a device that does not financially disadvantage the service provider, while helping the rider. However, in the case of DART, which costs the City 2-3 times more to ride than bus service, an unlimited ride pass could overload the system, forcing rides to be denied. Since there are no trip priorities, rides would be first come, first served, and for example, a ride to the movies is equal to a ride to dialysis in the eyes of the Federal government. This could disadvantage our riders, and disadvantage the system, as revenue would be lost.

Alderman DeHahn asked if the forthcoming ride consolidation module could be used to bill individuals, or their credit cards, as well as organizations. This is a potential use for the module.

Ms. Kell stated that she was looking at this from the disabled individual's perspective. Alderman DeHahn noted that his wife has to use an electric cart at times, and they have adapted, but there are times when the process could be easier.

After further discussion, Alderman DeHahn moved the item be deferred until the study is completed. Ms. Niemiec seconded and the motion passed.

Deferred

**Miscellaneous Transit System Business**

*There was no miscellaneous transit business to report.*

**Next Meeting Date**

*The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 4:30 P.M.*

**Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 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.**