



**Meeting Minutes  
Municipal Parking Utility Board**

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Wednesday, April 22, 2015

4:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

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**Call to Order, Roll Call**

*Audrey Kader, presiding*

**Present:** 6 - Audrey Kader, Richard Swantz, James Cherf, Leah Mudler, Bill Sacia, Dan Wettstein

**Excused:** 3 - Andrew Gavrilos, Joe Ledvina, James Warsinske

**Absent:** 2 - Robin Moses, Jay McHenry

*Others Present: Teri Lehrke, Dale Hexom, Art Fahey, News Media*

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Cherf, seconded by Wettstein, to APPROVE the minutes of March 25, 2015. The motion carried by voice vote

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 8 - Audrey Kader, Richard Swantz, James Cherf, Robin Moses, Leah Mudler, Bill Sacia, Dan Wettstein, Jay McHenry

**Excused:** 3 - Andrew Gavrilos, Joe Ledvina, James Warsinske

**Special Event/Traffic control for exits.**

It was reported that staff was present in the ramp to assist with exiting after the ZZ Top concert. The Police Reserves assisted with this process and are willing to work future events as needed, if adequate notice is provided. The only issue to be resolved is relating to the Holiday Inn parking, and Public Works' staff is working on it.

Concern was expressed that people who park in La Crosse Center ramp don't use all four exits; most use 2nd St. There are also many permitted spaces and small signs. Also, ticket jamming will slow the exiting. The ramp could empty quicker if there were people at the exits at the time the event lets out directing people to use all four exits. We have to do more to facilitate and educate people.

It was explained that there are two types of events. For events like the Governor's Conference, there is no event parking fee. The other type of event is for large events where we are charging for event parking. The issue is who is going to take on the responsibility of collecting and accounting for the

money. Volunteers are not city employees.

Staff (Public Works, Police and La Crosse Center) was directed to meet and address the global issue of exiting the ramp for special events and conferences, including staffing.

### Sale of old parking meters

Referred to next month.

#### [15-0334](#)

Tradesmen parking permits.

This matter came to the Board's attention from a downtown business owner who expressed concern about the block in front of his business being parked up with trade vehicles. The Ordinance provides a limited number of parking permits for trade vehicles if building a permit is pulled. There was also discussion that contractors park on the street without a permit and do not get a ticket. Is there a way to make sure a business has at least one space left open? Members of the Board felt the ordinance was not clear. The Director of Public Works was asked to convene staff to look at the concerns that have been raised and modify or clarify the ordinance. It was also noted that this matter is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Works, not this Board.

#### [15-0424](#)

Public Works and Police Parking Utility Report (April 2015).

A motion was made by Cherf, seconded by Sacia, that this Report be RECEIVED AND FILED. The motion carried by voice vote.

#### [15-0441](#)

Ramp parking rates and cost of maintenance.

Finance will be putting together the 2016 budget timeline soon. Chair asked the Finance Director for the city budget for the Parking Utility expense and income, so the Board has a full picture to decide what to do for 2016.

As far as upgrading the cleanliness of the ramps, the Board should establish the standard it wants to achieve and the associated expenses to do so. It's also been a priority to increase the feeling of safety and security, and some of that has been done. However, there are continuing issues of homeless and vagrants, particularly in Market Square Ramp. A Port-A-Potty was installed in the Market Square Ramp as a trial to see if that helps the problem. It is better, but still a problem.

The Parking Utility funds CSE's, but they take direction from the Police Department. Should CSE's enforce parking problems that result in revenue or have a presence in the ramps whose purpose is to ensure high level of visibility in the ramps? Their assignment should be maintenance and patrol of the ramps, if they don't have other priorities; i.e. snow removal, special events, university area parking. The Parking Utility has one full time person who works from 6a-2p. This person changes the permit signs, checks the stairwells, etc. in all three ramps.

Showed video of hydrophobic paint - water repellent paint. It is expensive, and available locally. Staff would need to research further to see if there is some applicability in the ramps. No action.

## Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

- Assigned spaces that are unoccupied. Are we willing to set aside portion of ramps for transient parking, and oversubscription of spaces sold?
- Bike parking
- Subscription based parking rates. Do we charge a higher rate depending upon ramp?
- How to market the vacant spaces
- Budget
- CSEs for Parking separate from Police

## Adjournment

A motion was made by Cherf, seconded by Swantz, to ADJOURN. The motion carried by voice vote.