

**PARKING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2002**  
**City Hall – Council Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Parking Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman, Alex Hanson at approximately 8:40 a.m.

**Members Present:** City Councilor Alex Hanson, Chairman  
John Burke, Parking & Transportation Director  
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director  
Capt. Thomas Schladenhauffen  
Judie Belanger, Deputy Finance Director

Also present was Ruth Bowen, Parking Clerk.

Excused absence: John Bohenko, City Manager

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

Motion made by Steve Parkinson to accept the May 16, 2002 minutes of the Parking Committee. Seconded by Capt. Tom Schladenhauffen. Motion passed.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**(A) Motorcycle Parking Downtown** – The Committee addressed a letter from a resident concerned that several motorcycles are often parked in single metered parking spaces downtown. Chairman Alex Hanson stated that people are on both sides of this issue - some people get upset at finding a single motorcycle taking up a whole parking space and others get upset that 4 or 5 motorcycles park in a single space. John Burke stated that how a community reacts to this from a policy perspective often relates to how much downtown parking availability there is. In a community with a lot of available onstreet parking space, they may require one motorcycle per parking space. But in communities with very little available parking like Portsmouth, it may be acceptable to have multiple motorcycles in a stall as long as the metered is paid. In this way, there is more available parking for customers of downtown businesses.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to place on file. Seconded by Capt. Tom Schladenhauffen. Motion passed.

- (B) Bridge Street Parking Lot – Request for 4-Hour Meters** – The Committee responded to a downtown business owner’s request to increase the number of 4-hour meters in the Bridge Street area. The business owner believes that more 4-hour space is needed because the existing 4-hour meters on Bridge Street are often full. John Burke suggested installing 10 to 12 spaces at the lower end of the lot down by Hanover St. Chairman Alex Hanson added that these space would be appropriate for four hour limits because based on meter collections, they are far less used than those in the upper lot. He added that designating them 4-hour stalls might increase the lot utilization.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to convert twelve (12) 2-hour meters to 4-hour meters at the lower end of the Bridge Street Municipal Parking Lot. Seconded by Capt. Schladenhauffen. Motion passed.

- (C) Sheafe Street – 2-Hour Parking** – The Committee addressed a resident letter requesting that the 2-hour parking limit on Sheafe Street be removed. John Burke stated that the 2-hour limit has been in the Ordinance for some time. Chairman Hanson noted that the resident complaining about the 2-hour limits is not a resident of Sheafe Street.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to place on file. Seconded by Capt. Tom Schladenhauffen. Motion passed.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) Peirce Island Parking Plan** – John Burke reported that the “no parking” signs had been installed along the access road and some of the stones placed along the access road would be adjusted shortly to address people parking on the grassed areas of the island. The boat ramp parking will be delineated in the spring. Steve asked Capt. Schladenhauffen if there had been any problems with parking in the boat ramp area. Capt. Schladenhauffen responded that it occurs during events and on Saturdays. Chairman Hanson asked if the Police are actively patrolling the \$100 fine area at night. Capt. Schladenhauffen responded in the affirmative.
- (B) Issues related to Handicap Parking Placards** – As a follow-up to last month’s Parking Committee meeting, Ruth Bowen, Parking Clerk had checked on how other municipalities, including Laconia, Dover, Somersworth, Rochester, Durham, Concord, Manchester, Nashua and Keene, deal with people not properly displaying their

handicap placards. Ruth noted that there are a few municipalities that are currently working on trying to create an Ordinance for second-time offenders but none that currently had one. Chairman Hanson asked how many people had improperly hung their placards over 6 times. Ruth answered that there are only about 3 people who are constant offenders. John Burke noted that the City hopes to participate on a committee at the state level that is working to address abuses of parking for the disabled. Alex Hanson added that it would be good to make any policies uniform throughout the state. Ruth Bowen stated that she would like to see some sort of Ordinance at the City level with regards to this matter. Chairman Alex Hanson requested that staff meet with Attorney Sullivan to draft an Ordinance for review at the next Parking Committee meeting.

The present fine for parking illegally in a handicapped parking stall is \$50.00. Alex Hanson recommended increasing the handicap parking to \$100 with the late fee doubling this amount. Most communities set this fine at \$100 or more.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson requesting that the Legal Department draft an Ordinance dealing with improper placement of handicapped parking placards and to increase the penalty for the handicap parking fine from \$50.00 to \$100.00 and doubling late fees. Seconded by Judie Belanger. Motion passed.

- (C) **Implementation of Truck Loading Zones** – John Burke stated that the new truck loading signs have been designated and are working well. There are certain zones that will require more regular enforcement and John stated that this is planned. Alex Hanson stated that we also need to continue enforcement of parking on sidewalks to protect all the new brick sidewalks in town that have recently been constructed.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) **State Street – Proposal to relocate existing Handicap Parking Stall** – John Burke stated that there is an existing disabled parking stall located just north of the Rockingham Apts. on State Street that is wedged between two other metered spaces. It is recommended that this disabled space be relocated to the other side of the street at the intersection of State Street and Chestnut Street where there is an existing handicapped ramp.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to approve the relocation of the handicapped parking stall as presented. Seconded by Capt. Tom Schladenhauffen. Motion passed.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairman Alex Hanson stated that a meeting will not be held in September. The next meeting will be held October 17, 2002.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

---

Elaine E. Boucas