

**PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING  
7:30 AM –Thursday, February 10, 2011  
City Hall – Conference Room A**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

John Bohenko, City Manager  
Councilor Kenneth Smith, Chair  
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director  
Steven DuBois, Deputy Police Chief  
Andrew Purgiel, City Auditor  
Jon Frederick, Director of Parking & Transportation

Also present were Brian Slovanski, Matthew Sharlot, Michael Buckley, Cliffe Arrand.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**MOTION** made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting as presented. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Andrew Purgiel presented the committee with the projected Jan.-June FY11 Budget. Andrew Purgiel stated we are slowly getting closer to breaking even to the projected budget. There is an increase in garage passes - we have gained 60 passes back from the 90 that we lost.

**MOTION** made Steve Parkinson to accept the report. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**(A) Review of Snow Ban Coupon Ordinance** (Memo dated 2/4/2011 attached) – Jon Frederick stated the current Ordinance stipulates that the coupons can be used during a snow ban, 2 hours prior to the declaration of the snow ban to 2 hours after for parking at the HHPF for a \$3.00 flat rate. We would like to expand the time frame allowed to park from the declaration of an advanced warning until a time deemed appropriate by garage personnel following termination of the snow ban, but at least two hours after the termination of the snow ban. We will flex the time so that if someone gets out of work at 6pm but the ban is terminated around lunch time, we'll honor the later time as well. This change has no impact on

revenue as the people utilizing the system would not normally park in the garage. This would require an Ordinance change.

**MOTION** made by John Bohenko to accept the recommendation as presented on the snow ban coupons. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

**ORDINANCE CHANGE**

- (B) **Bicycle Racks in Parking Spaces** – Councilor Inquiry – The City Manager stated there are a number of issues that they will be going forward with together with the whole Omnibus on downtown parking issues.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table bicycle racks to our next meeting. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

- (C) **High Hanover Parking Facility – Changes in Parking Fees** (First Hour Free, \$1.00 per hour thereafter) – Councilor Inquiry (Memo dated 2/4/2011 attached) –

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table until our next meeting. Seconded Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

The City Manager suggested a special meeting with Rick Taintor, Cindy Hayden and Nancy Carmer to discuss what we are bringing forward. In advance of our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, within the next couple of weeks. Extend invitation to EDC and perhaps City Council members.

- (D) **Pesce Italian Kitchen** – Request for Valet Parking (Atlantic Parking Services Proposal attached) – Jon Frederick stated this is a request for valet parking in the unofficial loading zone on Congress Street. This zone is currently designed for truck use only, as it sits at the right hand turning travel lane on Congress St.

Mr. Slovenski stated possibly using the existing valet stand at the Music Hall. Jon Frederick stated he is against using the unofficial loading zone on Congress Street. Regular passenger vehicles parking there would create a dangerous situation. During daylight hours, the sight lines are fine as motorists can see the larger trucks that would normally occupy this space. At night time, you don't have the same situation due to limited sight lines and cars are less visible than trucks. This creates an unsafe situation.

Music Hall loading zone is a different story.

The City Manager stated we need to look at this along with the whole downtown.

The Chair asked Brian Slovenski to sit down with them to take a look at the whole thing.

The Chair stated for the record that Atlantic Parking Service has a stellar record and valet parking has definitely worked for the whole community, but we need to sit down and look at the entire City and come up with

locations that will work for everybody and would like this done before our next meeting.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) **Wellington Room** – Request for Valet Parking – (Atlantic Parking Services Proposal attached) - (Refer to Memo Attached to January Agenda) – Matthew Sharlot, owner of the Wellington Room is requesting some valet parking on Bow Street in front of the new Martingale Wharf building. The loading zone in front of this building would become valet parking on off hours. We do tell our customers to use HHPF. People do not like to walk on icy sidewalks. After we opened 3-4 spaces were taken away at the time of the construction project and never received the spaces back. We would like to share the valet with the new restaurant, Surf, going into the Martingale site.

The Chair stated that at our last meeting when we approved a loading zone, one of the stipulations was that they not be used for valet parking, so that stipulation will need to be changed to go forward.

Steve Parkinson stated the stipulation was put in as a trade off for losing the four spaces on the other side of the street. We were going to gain back one new diagonal space and two spaces in the loading zone on off hours, for a net loss of one space.

The City Manager has no problem with the concept of valet but we need to have more information about Surf.

Michael Buckley, owner of Surf stated he is here to get acquainted with the situation. Mr. Buckley has three restaurants in the Nashua area, and opened a steakhouse in Merrimack. He has secured a ten year lease with a ten year option at 99 Bow St. Martingale Wharf, will be taking the whole west part of the street level of Martingale Wharf, approximately 125 seat seafood restaurant called Surf Portsmouth. Anticipated opening in mid May.

Steve Parkinson referred to the Route the cars will take from the loading zone. It appears they will take a u-turn from the loading zone on the north side and they will go up Chapel St. to across Daniel to State to Harbor Place Parking garage. That u-turn is not legal.

Mr. Slovenski stated this can be amended by going up Bow St. to Market St. or find a legal u-turn or legal left turn.

Steve Parkinson stated the only way you can go is up Market St. to the Square down Church St. to State St.

Mr. Slovenski stated if that's the best route, they will do that.

Steve Parkinson has a problem with the fact that we just made this change based upon the fact that these spaces would be returned to public spaces in the evening hours.

The City Manager agrees with the valet concept, but would like to see Surf open for a few months to see how it is working, to find out what kind of traffic is happening before we commit to this.

Mr. Buckley stated that the bottom of that building is scheduled to be another 100+ seat restaurant as well.

The Chair suggested postponement to our next meeting and have Mark McNabb present to find out what is going on with that whole building. We will need to come up with a solution not only for the Wellington Room but for all these restaurants in the whole area. We need to come up with something.

The City Manager suggested putting together a map of the downtown parking and look at what valet we did approve but are currently dormant. City Manager stated that your restaurants are probably the closest to the HHPF, 900 spaces there, a 3 minute walk.

Steve Parkinson stated we need to get a handle on where we have these situations now.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table this request until our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and work on a comprehensive study and have Mark McNabb present. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

**(B) Fine Schedule Changes:**

1. **Penalty for Removing Chalk Marks** – Report back from Legal Department (Memo dated 2/4/2011 attached) – Jon Frederick stated he would like to discuss this further with Legal. Essentially what we are doing now is adequate. Recommended his discussing this further with Legal and report back.

**MOTION** made by John Bohenko for a report back. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

2. **Parking on Grass** – Report back from Legal Department (Memo dated 2/4/20112 attached) – Jon Frederick reported that the way we now enforce is adequate, our Ordinances are sound. The current fine for no parking area is adequate.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept report. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passed.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Andrew Purgiel. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DuBois. Motion passes.