

## Citywide Neighborhood Committee Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2016 City Hall, Conference Room A

Cliff Lazenby called the meeting to order, 7PM

Motion to approve minutes- Kathy Bergeron

Second- Cristy Cardoso

Cliff introduced Joey Giordano – Parking Coordinator for city of Portsmouth

Joe G- Will discuss parking what other cities are doing about parking

Parking utilization. Utilization is the same on Market and Congress and Bow in summer as in shoulder (May/October)

Resident parking program?

Mary Lou-F 6a to 6P For people that reside or work. Hanover Street/Pearl St. Area

There is no teeth in the ordinance to enforce because Parking employees don't have access to the same data base as the police. Needs to be a police officer to enforce.

Karina Qunintas - not enforceable because they are not using stickers, using plates instead.

JG: There are different types resident parking – citywide, neighborhood, or permit (hybrid)

Citywide - you have a sticker, you can park anywhere in the resident parking.

Easy to enforce, but challenges for some neighborhoods

Neighborhood or Zone parking – by location or neighborhood only

Challenges, neighborhoods would need to be defined

Participation is voted on by neighborhood, needs to be more than 50% in favor

Cost of the program – cost money to residents and city- additional staffing.

Administrative program of giving decals out.

Challeng: Spill over to outlying neighborhoods

Permit parking – allows residents and non residents (workers) could apply for a permit.

Non residents pay a higher fee than residents.

Worker turnover was a problem with the workers permits

Visitor parking is the problem – must apply before hand. Most parking directors have a problem with this with abuse.

Paul Mandle – related story of calling the police in a town to tell them there will be a visitor parking

JG- talked about on line visitor parking

Program doesn't work unless it is enforced.

Current Strategy

Communication

Communication with business owners & research

Implementation Schedule

Something will be in place when the new garage opens. Not on the back burner researching every day about resident parking. 2 year time frame.

Cant put a sign up without enforcement

Jim Splaine – What was the time frame for the study.

JG-Occupancy on spaces was during the hours of 9 – 7.

Jim Splaine – Years ago signs were put up although not enforced, and that worked because people were afraid of the signs and certain people didn't park there

JG: Here is my contact info for questions or ideas: [JGiordano@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:JGiordano@cityofportsmouth.com)

Karina- How big is the parking department & how many neighborhoods are interested in this?

JG-nothing is set, need to be prepared, get emails from people

Parking is 50 people including 32 part time including crossing guards. Need to have enforcement, and clerks office. It will increase the volume of employees in parking department.

Karina- who are you hearing from

JG- squeaky wheel, people are having issues.

Mary Lou-Where is the resident parking now?

JG- Hanover, from Pearl to Brewster & Pearl East side Islington to Hanover

Jim Splaine- Have you towed?

JG – No

JG – looking for pricing that works to create the proper occupancy, City Manager does not look at it this way. Just went to \$1.75 per hour. Will not go up for a year

John- Observation that bringing on more city employees will be a problem. We should just leave it alone

Cars are not towed in a snow storm, how would they tow with stickers?

When will meters be changed that take change?

JG – There are still a lot of them (that take change), we are changing them. Test contract with new meter contract for credit card meters and parking app that you pay for the parking app on line.

John – Why can't we get rid of the coin meters. You can get rid of all of them.

JG – we need to do a test first, then we can go forward.

Mary Lou – will they still take change?

JG – yes, they will, and we hope that it works and we will go forward

Peter Rice – We tested some last year and found they didn't work up to standard, they will not use these going forward, glad we did a test.

M – what about the easy park

JG- 150 people have it. Ordinance is that all electronics can work.

Mary Lou – How many have Easy Park

JG –unclear how many. Easy park will still work

Mary Lou – what about using your phone and hands free?

JG – not directional, you get in a space and pay for parking. Would also work in the garage, puts out a code you put under the light.

Aaron Garganta- what is the discount?

Peter Rice– a \$0.25 discount at all times

Paul Mannle – Citywide would be easiest, city isn't big enough. Why don't we use recycle center stickers? Problem is that people outside of downtown will come down to downtown.

JG – you don't know about problems until it is up and running, we will see similar growing pains similar to garage. Challenge with neighborhood and with citywide programs.

Cristy – It will be a challenge with so many stakeholders with different needs and interests. We heard from a resident who parks in another residential nbhd because her employer does not have parking

JG – sees lots of issues in other cities.

Cliff – what can we do to help.

JG – I am talking to everyone, but trying to be nice, Just as many people are for parking ideas as against.

Jim Splaine- Fought for more of a discount. City Manager loves to make money from parking \$2.5 million. We should be giving more of a discount because the businesses will

John – We have congested neighborhoods already. Need to have neighborhood parking lots.

JG – Parrott Avenue lot – 100% occupancy and it is free. Reach out to different areas, ex. Piscataqua Bank, or churches. We are trying to steal where we can, but there is not much out there. We take \$0.50 per \$1.00 off of tax rate, so there is the discounted parking.

Jim – We do need the garage, hopefully not a third

JG – I hate to put things off until parking garage is done, but it is not a cop out, that could change

Karina – Will Bridge STt. lot go away with new garage

Peter – No, that is a council decision, but no plans to do away with it.

Karina – does this go along with striping, when we get meters.

JG – no we would not strip neighborhoods, so we can put more cars in if small.

Sara – will there be more plug in spots?

JG – More going in garages and other places

Sara – spots in garage are always full

JG – make sure the ordinance is for charging park.

Jim Splaine – are we charging to charge cars?

JG – You park at the same rate, and you pay through the company that owns the charging station. New systems will be wifi based.

Cristy – You pointed out flaws in ordinance. Lots of pressure points ex: Sunday meters, more meters. It is frustrating that the ordinance is flawed . Why we can't just edit the ordinance now in the near term.

JG – it works if we have the police run the ticket.

Paul – what is the ticket

JG - \$20 – needs to be higher. Not a deterrent, needs to be higher.

Cliff: Do you have a sense of what program is best

JG: It changes every day. Questions every day

Peter – This will be a public process

Aaron- are we adequately taking care of our current garage?

Peter – No- planning a major renovation of Hanover garage. The garage is past preventative maintenance, needs a total overhaul

Aaron – appreciate that it is being looked at.

JG – thinks if we were looking at things now with the same team it wouldn't have been in this condition. Need to go forward.

Jim- is the plan still to do 1/3 (of the existing garage), at a time.

Peter – planning now, working with contractor.

Paul Mandle – another 2 or three years to do Hanover. Minimum 4 years before we have 600 extra spaces.

Kathleen – What is being done for safety.

JG – lighting and there are changes.

Kathleen – Surrounding neighborhood won't glow?

JG- no directional lighting.

Peter – LED saves money

Cliff – what do you see as the arc

JG – More of this, getting the feel for what is going on, getting info to the council and being able to make the decision

Karina – We should have forum with the mix of residents and business owners.

Aaron – have you ever done a survey to find out what the sense is out there

JG – A year from now, it will be a different feeling.

Peter Rice- ticket revenue is down, meter revenue is up.

Mary Lou– getting the employees and meeting with the downtown business owners is important. It will be a challenge but it is very important.

Aaron – what is happening at Rte 33 I-95 interchange with street lights

Peter – state project to save money

Aaron – wanted to thank public works for trimming the trees

Peter – The city arborist was responsible for that.

Jim – and what should we do if we have a problem Peter?

Peter – Click n fix.

JG – Thanks for having me

Neighborhood Outreach forum-

Cliff – For Ward 3, have talked to the city councilors, will have a rep, have it at community campus.

Will have a panel give a short presentation and then have Q&A. Issues specific to ward 3. Jack, Jim and Josh, Peter Rice and Police Department 7 -9PM

Hoping it will be a success and we will do others .

We did it by wards because it is defined.

After this we will do them in the Fall.

Cliff August NNo- August 2<sup>nd</sup>, next meeting will talk more about NNO

Loni Seligman -- Peverly Hill has never had one with no sidewalks

Paul: You should have it at Portsmouth Plains

Sara – asked about banners

Kathy – no budget we need to keep up the banners.

Misc

Steering Committee member election – Larry Cataldo

Paul Mannle – moved

Cristy – second

All in favor.

Events and News of Note

Islington St. Lab

Paul Mannle: Talked about Port City Maker Space

PS21 event

Take a section of Islington Street and do lots of things and see what people think, having another meeting May 12. Will happen some time this summer.

Kathy: How will they weight it?

Paul: Will probably have survey monkeys.

NBHD Reports.

Aaron – Pannaway Manor – All is quiet, lost momentum with the sound barrier. Made some progress and then lost ground.

Sarah – has the city helped?

Aaron – they haven't done much. Gave history of the sound barriers.

Kathleen – How did Atlantic Heights get done

Cristy – was part of bridge maintenance. Let Cliff know we should redraft the letter sent to Lister to new Blalock so as not to let that drop.

Sara – Christian Shore Creek – had our first meeting, well attended. Planning on having a little free library, and looking into play streets.

John Wykoff- Would like to make the neighborhood a little smaller. concerned about telephone poles in the area.

ML259@comcast .net Marly Lou McElwain on parking and safety, as alternate. Let her know if you have any issues.

Karina – Islington Creek informal poll shows people for resident parking.

Kathleen – South End – upheaval about safety concerns with Pierce Island project. The arts festival conceded to no concerts on school nights, but worried about Taj Majal coming right after construction starts. Parking on Pierce Island will be diminished.

Loni Seligman -- thank you to committee for helping with sidewalks and water country.

Cliff Lazenby – not much going on in Elwyn Park

Kathy- talked about variances requested for larger homes, effecting all neighborhoods Hoping to change massing of new homes through zoning.

Cristy –having a problem with utility poles being put on the street. City helped with the utility companies so they could not move the poles. Cant go underground

Paul Mannle –South Islington, or Plains. West end zoning. Concerned with 50 foot buildings along Aldrich St.

Borthwick Forest Road – Neighbors are fighting it. Developer working with city to design road. Just development, no road frontage. Diverting traffic onto Islington St. Middle, Essex. Feels as though it will increase traffic on those streets. They delayed because they don't have written easements from the Railroad. Coming up on Planning board on May 19. Asked for support on it.

Cliff called for meeting adjournment

Kathy – Motion

Paul – second

Meeting adjourned 9:15