

Meeting Minutes  
Farmington Parking Advisory Committee  
Nov 20, 2019

Attendees

Bill Galvin <bgalving@farmgov.com>  
Kenneth Crutcher <crutcherk@crutcherstudio.com>  
Frank Demers <FDemers@farmgov.com>  
Chris Halas <ch.halas@gmail.com>  
Joe Mantey <cheeseladyfarmington@gmail.com>  
Rachel Gallagher <rachelegallagher@aol.com>  
David Murphy <DMurphy@farmgov.com>

Agenda

1. Roll call - 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the agenda

Gallagher made a motion to approve. Crutcher Supported. All were in favor. Approved

3. Approval of the October 2019 Parking Advisory Committee Minutes

Halas requested an update to the Oct. 16, 2019 minutes. His absence was approved by Mantey in advance of the meeting. Halas was traveling for work. With that change, Gallagher made a motion to approve. Crutcher supported. All were in favor. Approved.

4. Public Comment

No Public comment.

5. Public safety update

Chief Demers informed the committee that 89 citations were issued during the prior month. While this number is higher than prior months, it includes violations issued on both the Polish and Italian themed Farmers Markets. These are two of the busier market days during the Farmers Market

Season. The complete safety report including the violations is on file in the office of public safety.

It was also discussed that the new parking enforcement officer could help with enforcement of public safety code items such as the shoveling of sidewalks during the winter.

#### 6. Special Event Parking (use of firelane)

Mantey asked Demers if an exception could be made to the safety ordinance that precludes motorists from parking in the fire lane in the parking lot between Tuesday Morning and Tubby's Subs. The idea was to temporarily increase parking inventory during busy Farmers Market events. Demers denied the request on the grounds that access for emergency response vehicles would be impaired in the event of a car fire.

#### 7. Discuss the economic value of a parking space

Galvin provided the supporting materials of this recurring topic to Mantey. In so doing, he made a motion to postpone this topic to the next meeting. Halas supported. All were in favor. Mantey will select and share a specific passage from the Robert Shop book, "The High Cost of Free Parking," at the next parking committee meeting.

#### 8. Parking Near MTC

Galvin referenced the Walker Parking Study and reminded the committee that the study suggests that more than 400 spaces will be needed in downtown Farmington by the year 2030. Some new spaces have been added to the inventory since the Walker Parking Study was completed. However, the exact number is not known. As part of the new enforcement officer's responsibilities, Galvin suggested that David Murphy work with the officer to update our current inventory downtown.

P.23 of The Walker Parking study suggests that additional spaces will be needed near Mortgage 1 on Grand River Ave. Spaces in this area will provide a line of site for motorists who are likely to patronize downtown businesses and attend events. Additionally, parking in this area will be needed if the MTV redevelopment occurs at the MTC.

Galvin also suggested that David Murphy work with Walter Gajewski to see if signs can be added to improve way finding to the Village Commons Shopping Center parking lot on Market Days. That parking lot does not offer a clear line of sight to the Market, therefore it is likely that motorists do not realize they can park there.

The committee also discussed the fact that there is no crosswalk on Grand River between the Village Commons and the Samurai Sushi restaurant. The fact that the speed limit is 35mph on that section of Grand River Ave raised additional concerns about pedestrian safety. Mantey suggested that the city should consider contacting MDOT to see if the speed limit can be reduced in that section. This decision will involve more stakeholders than those who serve on the parking committee.

## 9. Future Items For Discussion

Action on the aforementioned item regarding a potential additional crosswalk on Grand River Ave will be discussed at the next meeting.

David Murphy provided an update on the City's potential parking arrangement with Salem Church. He said the dialog is promising and hopes to have more actionable news to report at the next meeting.

Galvin advised the committee that Farmington City Council would like to explore the potential of downtown businesses raising funds for the creation of additional parking spaces.

Krutcher suggested that a potential land use ordinance could be put in place to charge downtown business owners for using their land for parking.

Murphy suggested that the city attorney be invited to the next parking committee meeting to discuss Krutcher's usage idea.

Halas referenced Chief Demers observation that ride sharing services are reducing the amount of DUI violations issued in Farmington. Halas then suggested that it could stand to reason that usage of ride sharing services are also affecting the need for parking. As very little of the Walker Parking Study references ride sharing, Halas suggested that an audit of ride sharing services in downtown Farmington could help inform the need for

the amount of parking spaces needed in the future. Halas will do some research and share his findings on this topic for the next meeting.

#### 10. Committee Comments

Murphy noted that he moved available “20-minute time limit” signs near the spaces in the semi-circle driveway on the West side of City Hall. This is meant to discourage employees from parking there and to improve access for residents and visitors.

Mantey made a motion to postpone the December Parking Advisory Committee meeting to January. A notice of the specific date will be posted in January.

#### 11. Adjournment

8:26 p.m.