

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2009

A regular meeting of the Parking Authority of the Town of Southington was held on April 2, 2009 in the Town Council Chambers of the Southington Town Hall at 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by John Solury Chairman at 1:05PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance to the American flag was recited by all present.

Roll Call

Present: Chairman John Solury, Jr. and Commissioners Mathew Florian, Mark Dziubek, Dee Babkirk.

A quorum is determined.

John J. Solury, Jr. assuming the Chair:

Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2009

Commissioner Mark Dziubek made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Florian seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Communications

Jim Sinclair, 852 Savage St., Southington addressed the Parking Authority on the issue of skateboarders in the downtown area and more specifically the town's liability if an accident were to occur in the municipal parking lots. He is concerned for their safety, destruction of public and private property and the hampering of people getting to local businesses. Camp Sloper does have a skate boarding facility but it is off the beaten track for some of these kids. There are no ordinances in place to curtail it and the police find it difficult to address it. They use the municipal lots, Derynowski and the rail to trails. He described damage done and an incident when a landowner was arrested for arguing with the skateboarders in his own parking lot. The parents have sued and it is still in litigation. He suggests that since the municipal parking lots are involved, this board should address this issue with the Town Council. Chairman Solury did interject that the lots are posted that no sports-related activities, including roller blades or skateboarding are allowed. Chairman Solury can ask the police department to enforce the lot rules. He will discuss this with the police. Perhaps fines need to be levied. Mr. Florian did discuss the problem. He feels that outdoor activities are beneficial and should be encouraged, however the municipal lots are not an appropriate place for this, and he shares the speaker's

concerns. He feels that the Town needs to address this and a skateboard park needs to be considered. Mr. Sinclair is encouraged by Chairman Solury to approach the Town Council. The Parking Authority recognizes this as a problem in the town lots. Mr. Florian recaps that these youths are not hanging around, they are pursuing a sport. He recognizes that transportation to the outskirts of town is not an option for these kids. He suggested that perhaps a volunteer outreach be entertained to provide a proper place to skateboard through private funds if need be. He spoke of Goat Island or the back yard of Derynowski as suggestions. When asked Mr. Sinclair said he would be willing to volunteer for a fund-raising organization to design and privately fund a skateboard for Southington's skateboard enthusiasts, with a goal to give them a better place than the public parking lots. Chairman Solury agreed to contact the police department about enforcing existing rules in the municipal lots and to be instrumental in starting a grass roots organization to provide a better place in the central Southington for skateboarding. There are a myriad of legal/funding issues involved. Mr. Florian agreed to help with this.

Commissioner's Communications

Chairman Solury informed the panel that he was able to meet with Mr. Egidio in regard to having the Park & Rec help with some of the spring clean up of the municipal lots. Egidio feels quite committed right now and is unable to consider this suggestion until the new budget year and is not able to promise even then. Solury also asked if the Park & Rec crew could do some trash pick up if they were working in the area of the municipal lots. He does hire part-time help in the summer and he might be able to coordinate clean up with the parking authority, supporting a mutual goal of keeping the downtown area pleasant for the people of Southington.

Mr. Florian added that he is aware of a high school program that requires students to do community service in place of suspension and suggests that this be explored. He will look into the availability and the legality of this. Court mandated community service was also discussed.

Chairman Solury did speak with the town highway foreman in reference to sweeping the parking lots and found that they do take care of this. It is scheduled for the beginning of May. He also did a quick tour of the lots with Rebecca Davis to get up to date on spring clean up issues.

Some communications have been received from local doctors in regard to parking concerns. The Psychiatric Wellness Center at 58 No. Main Street reports several parking tickets for overtime parking for the physician and staff in one week. There was no parking available at the time. Often no parking is available anywhere or there are too many empty two-hour parking spaces. The comment letter suggests a system of permits to be placed in cars to use the two hour parking spaces. Chairman Solury did call the office and spoke with them about their concerns. He asked about the day of the week involved, the time of day and which lot is involved. He is awaiting this information in writing, as he requested.

Mr. Florian reports that he was also contacted about this he knows the time involved was Monday thru Thursday, typically in the morning. He feels that there are too many two-hour spots. The Riccio, D'Angelo and

First Congregational lot has a total of 257 parking spaces, of which 51 are two hour spaces. That would be 20% and might be too many.

Chairman Solury also met with Dr. Paradis at Main and Columbus discussing some of his parking concerns.

Commissioner Dziubek is working on a survey for local businesses and he will get these distributed, so that everyone will have an opportunity to comment on parking problems.

Commissioner Babkirk also had a call from a local doctor who had some parking lot difficulties.

At the time of the spring walk, the Parking Authority will keep these comments in mind as they assess the lots.

Submission of bills and payments

Commissioner Dziubek made a motion that the stenographer's bill in the amount of \$106 be paid. Commissioner Florian seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Dumpsters

Commissioner Florian reported on his progress regarding cluster placement of dumpsters in the downtown area. He is gathering quotes and it appears that with this arrangement, everyone will end up with a better service price. He has spoken with some of the businesses involved and he will point out placement options to the commissioners on the spring walk. He explored a compactor system and finds that it is neither cost effective nor practical at this point.

2 Hour Parking

Chairman Solury reports that the signs have been ordered and they match the existing signage. Vice Chair Erin Kane is working on getting them installed. The public notice was published on March 11 and can be enforced 20 days following that. The police department reports that they are enforcing the new regulations currently.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Walk of Lots

The time and date of the spring walk was discussed. It appears that in retrospect, there is no quorum for Saturday, April 4. Commissioner Florian also noted that a view of the lots during the afternoon on a business day would have some advantage. After a discussion, Commissioner Florian proposed a motion that those present today do the walk following today's business agenda. This was seconded by Commissioner Dziubek and the motion was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Babkirk made a motion that the walk around meeting scheduled for Saturday April 4 be canceled. This was seconded by Commissioner Dziubek and was unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Spring Clean up

To be discussed following the walking tour of the lots.

Use of Municipal Parking Lot

Chairman Solury presented a request for use of the rear of the 98 Main Street lot by the Firefighter's Scholarship Fund, Ride for Justin Wisniewski event scheduled for Sunday May 3. The event will begin and end at the Elk's Lodge. The municipal lot will be used for overflow, if needed, between 6am to 5pm. The certificate of liability insurance is included with this request. Commissioner Dziubek made a motion to grant this request as presented, seconded by Commissioner Babkirk. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Babkirk presented a request from the First Congregational Church asking permission to park approximately 20 vehicles to park overnight in the municipal lot behind the First Congregational Church as far to the rear as possible. Approximate hours of use would be 6:30am on May 5 until approximately 9pm on May 6. An appropriate notice will be placed prominently in each windshield. Chairman Solury provided some history on this request. Rebecca Davis did confirm that this has been granted on an annual basis and they have been allowed up to 20 places to park overnight. Mr. Florian suggested that Branford Hall be notified and he feels that they could make a short accommodation so that this would provide the least impact on available business spaces. He noted that the lot is full on the days in question. Mr. Dziubek made a motion that the First Congregational Church, based on past precedent and the lack of commissioner issues, be allowed to use 20 spaces in the parking lot on May 5 beginning at 6:30am, overnight and until 9pm on May 6. All commissioners were in favor and the motion passed on a voice vote. Mr. Florian will notify Branford Hall and Chairman Solury will notify the police department.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Babkirk spoke about snow removal having been discussed at CBA. Following plowing of the municipal lots the snow is left in piles and at times takes up quite a few parking spots for a long period of time. 5 spaces were covered in the Riccio Way lot this winter. Perhaps the town could remove the snow from the parking lots while they are in the downtown area.

She also asked for an updated parking ticket report so that violations could be tracked for time of day and days of the week. Vice Chairman Kane, the police department liaison will take care of this.

Commissioner Dziubek and Babkirk are working with Lou Perillo of Economic Development and the Town Planner Mary Savage on a parking survey to be distributed to downtown businesses. Mr. Dziubek reported on this project. They plan to hand deliver the survey questionnaire in an effort to improve participation. The last survey was done in 2002. This is not the parking study, which was done in 2000.

At 1:46pm those present and voting, continued the meeting outside for a spring walk through of Southington's municipal parking lots. Notes from this walk about will be discussed at the next meeting. Please see attached addendum.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20PM.

John J. Solury, Jr.
Chairman
Parking Authority
Town of Southington

Parking Authority Minutes Addendum

4/2/09

Continuation of the regularly scheduled meeting – walk through of the municipal parking lots

Present: Chairman Solury, Commissioner Babkirk, Commissioner Florian and Commissioner Dzuibek (?)

1. Reappropriating handicap spots. We will have Town Engineer Tony Tranquillo look at maps to guide us.
2. First Congregational Church parking lot – leave 2 hour parking. D'Angelo parking lot – 12 spaces are 2 hour facing Riccio Way. Remove 2 hour from 8 spaces leave 4 spaces as 2 hour parking.
3. Chairman Solury pointed out areas we are responsible for maintaining. Check with Atty. Mark Sciota regarding viable option to contact residents (on Oak Street) to deed some of their property to the town to add parking spaces located in back of Riccio Way. Commissioner Florian will talk to Tony Tranquillo to look at maps.
4. Damaged curbing – John will talk to Highway Dept. to confirm repair is taken care of by whoever plowed the property (damage done from snow plowing).
5. Have Engineer Tony Tranquillo look at property to see how we can expand the lot.
6. We discussed universal dumpster area (making it a town site) will ask tenants if they are interested and ask any questions or concerns.
7. BANK OF AMERICA LOT. Stairs going up to Legion lot replaced? No railing, bad lower stair – safety issue. Mat will get quote for replacement.
8. Jim Sinclair pointed out skate boarder damage. Also showed drainage issue – area exiting past Valley Bank. Contact Tony Tranquillo perhaps he could work with Tomasso – they paved the spot and should repair.
9. Universal Dumpster area – Bank of America lot in back near Liberty Centre building It would be used by businesses on perimeter of area. Check on strip in between Bank of America lot and Liberty Centre building to see who owns it. Great area for dumpster.
10. Behind Anthony Jack's if dumpsters were removed perhaps it would open up several spots.

11. Concern re: spring clean up. This includes mulching all islands in municipal lots. Chairman Solury called Atty. Mark Sciota and found that any amount under \$10,000 we need to get 3 bids. We will get 3 bids and vote at a special Parking Authority meeting TBA.

Adjourn 3:20 p.m.