

**Town of Southington
Parking Authority
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Parking Authority of the Town of Southington was held on April 3, 2008 in the Town Council chambers of the Southington Town Hall at 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Davis, Chairperson at 4:36pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone in attendance.

Roll Call

Mr. Salmeri, Mr. Myers, Mrs. Zoni, Ms. Zommer and Ms. Davis, Chair.

All members are present.

Rebecca Davis, assuming the Chair:

Mr. Myers made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2008 meeting as presented, second by Mr. Salmeri. Motion is passed on a voice vote.

Police Communications

Sgt. DePalma, liaison to the Chief of Police, addressed the group and answered questions. The enforcement of parking restrictions in the municipal lots was addressed at some length. The police patrol the lots in cars and on bicycle as often as it is feasible, given staff limitations and urgent priorities. Sgt. DePalma stressed the importance of proper signage for vigilant enforcement. Signs need to be clear and he advocates the use of DOT-approved signs to minimize misunderstandings. The Police Department would appreciate notification of regulation changes directly. Sgt. DePalma suggested that cursory maps of the lots outlining restricted areas would be of benefit to the patrols.

Mr. Myers questioned where the funds collected through town lot fines are deposited. Perhaps this money could return to the Parking Authority. He will check with the Town Attorney.

Mrs. Zoni asked about the amount of fines. Handicapped fines are mandated by the state. Parking lot fines are levied by the Parking Authority and submitted to the Town Attorney for approval.

Mr. Salmeri volunteered to draw up maps of the municipal lots outlining restricted areas for the use of the Police Department.

Public Communications

None to report.

Commissioners Communications

The Chair reports a call from a downtown tenant who wants a space to park overnight in the municipal lot. She explained that overnight parking is just not allowed and he should make private arrangements.

Ms. Davis called Mr. Florian about an issue he raised regarding the two hour parking in the Riccio Way lot. Mr. Florian has offered a suggestion to alleviate the situation.

Mr. Salmeri called Mr. Florian to discuss his suggestion. Mr. Salmeri explained that the board will ultimately act from a professional position and stressed that any decision would not be personal. They agreed to work together toward a solution.

Mr. Salmeri appeared at the last Council meeting to discuss and answer questions about the overnight parking in municipal lot issue. The decision was referred back to the Parking Authority.

Submission of Bills and Payments

Mr. Salmeri made a motion to pay the stenographer \$106; seconded by Ms. Zommer. Voice vote was unanimously affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget

There is no change from the previous meeting.

Parking Study

Mrs. Zoni did read the 2000 Parking Study. Parking was not sufficient at that time and a parking garage was recommended.

Mr. Salmeri spoke with the town planner about updating the 2000 study. She will report back to him, but it will cost something, and there are limited funds in the planner's budget. A parking garage at a cost of \$4-\$6 million is not in the Town's plans at the present time.

Spring Walk of Municipal Lots

The committee met on April 2 to personally walk each municipal lot and assess maintenance issues.

RICCIO WAY LOT

The Chair referred to a letter received by all from Mr. Florian about his concerns and suggestions in relation to the two-hour parking in the Riccio Way Lot.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion, seconded by Mr. Myers that Mr. Florian's letter be discussed at this meeting under new business. All agreed on a voice vote. It is added to today's agenda under new business.

The Town and Highway department will be asked to fix the fence and tie the tarp down and to assess some of the tree/shrub trimming. There is one tree that needs attention and may have to come down (along Merrill Ave). The tree is the most pressing safety issue. The lot will be swept and cleaned. There are some trash and dumpster issues that will be addressed. The lines need to be striped and Mrs. Zoni suggests a proper municipal lot identification sign needs to be placed at Main and Riccio Way. She will follow up and report at the next meeting.

D'ANGELO LOT

Regular spring maintenance is needed.

NORTH LIBERTY LOT

Line striping is needed. There was a discussion about placing a barrier of some sort on the corner to keep vehicles from leaving the pavement. A rock would require no maintenance. The liability issue will be addressed. The shrubbery will be trimmed. Ms. Davis addressed the issue of new signs. Mr. Salmeri proposed a fire lane next to the building.

POPULAR LOT

Mrs. Zoni feels that the popular lot needs more handicapped parking spaces. Two will be added where it is most feasible to place them with the least loss of other parking spaces. Two more handicapped signs will be needed.

FLEET LOT

There are arrows to be repainted. Mr. Salmeri asked about a step that needs to be repaired. Perhaps the Town highway crew

can handle it. There is a barrier issue that will need to be addressed.

AMERICAN LEGION-MASONIC LOT

Mr. Myers comments that some of the cement curbs need to be replaced and repaired and the arrows need to be repainted.

98 MAIN LOT

Routine maintenance and repainting of arrows is indicated and there are some curbs to be repaired or replaced.

PLANTSVILLE LOT

Lines need to be striped and there is a fence that needs attention. Mr. Salmeri will research whether the Town owns the fence. If it does, it needs to be fixed. Otherwise, the owner needs to take care of it.

QINNIPIAC LOT

There are too many issues to address. Some consultation is in order and action is contingent upon further discussion.

FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION:

There was some discussion about the quality of paint being used for the line and arrow striping. All efforts to use the most superior product available will be made in an attempt to require repainting less often.

The Chair discussed funds available for maintenance, landscaping and lot preventative projects.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion to hire John Meade to take care of routine spring clean up and maintenance of municipal lots as soon as possible, some shrub and tree trimming and placement of a substantial rock in the North Liberty Lot--as long as the bid is under \$9,500. Ms. Zommer seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

The lots will be cleaned before line striping can be done. There are 4 lots to be striped and arrowed. Mr. Salmeri commented that Tony Musto has done a great job in the past.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion that an estimate be sought from Tony Musto on striping the four lots. This was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and a voice vote was in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Municipal Lot Use (Bike Ride for Justin Wisniewski Scholarship Fund)

The Chair presented a request from Rome Wisniewski to use the 98 Main Lot for overflow during the Justin Wisniewski Fund Raising Event. There was some discussion and questions from the panel. Mr. Myers made a motion that the Parking Authority approve this request. Mr. Salmeri seconded his motion and it was passed on a voice vote. Mr. Wisniewski will be instructed to check with the Town Attorney about any event insurance that will be required.

Riccio Way, Mr. Florian, and 2 hour Parking

Mr. Salmeri thanked Mr. Florian for his letter and his interest and efforts toward improving the downtown area. Mr. Florian's concern is the need for more short term parking in the Riccio lot. Mr. Salmeri agreed that there is such a need, but the questions arise about exactly how to accomplish it. The charge of this group is to make the municipal lots as available as possible to all. He discussed an idea that he developed to improve the Riccio Lot, making all of the parking spaces more usable, more two-hour parking spaces available, render the lot safer and the area more aesthetic. There was considerable discussion about his plan, which met with positive comment from the panel. This will be explored with the Town Engineer, the Town Manager, and Sgt. DePalma. Mr. Salmeri reports that Mr. Florian had offered to finance some of the changes, should they develop. However, the panel agreed that it would be inappropriate to accept funding from a private citizen. Mr. Salmeri will draw up a conceptual map for review, further exploration, discussion and presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was called for by Mr. Salmeri at 6:15pm, seconded by Mrs. Zoni. All were in favor of adjournment by voice vote.

Rebecca Davis, Chairperson
Southington Parking Authority

