



CITY OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

DOWNTOWN PARKING BOARD

Special Meeting Minutes March 14, 2007

1. Call to Order 8:10 AM

Roll Call

Board Members Janis Gemignani, Elizabeth Monley, Jim Renelle, Sal Saglimbeni, Diana Beechie, Andrew Bales, Troy Tibbils

Members Absent: None

Staff: Jim Ortbal, Joe Garcia, Abi Maghamfar, Angelique Nedrow, Kelly Kline, DeAnna Stuth

Guests: Scott Knies, Henry Cord, Lee Barford, Bob Carlson, Jay Slotnick, Dan Katz, David Cahill, Alicia Ross, David Bird

Chair Gemignani called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Board Member Saglimbeni moved to approve the February 7, 2007 meeting minutes. Board Member Renelle seconded. Motion was carried unanimously. Vice Chair Monley moved to approve the February 21, 2007 special meeting minutes. Board Member Renelle seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

2. Chairperson Report

No Report

Jim Ortbal (DOT) reported that the City Council approved the lease with Legacy Partners on March 13th and Joe Garcia (DOT) and Angelique Nedrow (CAO) will be finalizing the agreement with Legacy Partners.

3. Parking Management Plan

A. Public Comment

Abi Maghamfar (SJRA) stated that the Board held a Community Meeting on Monday, March 12th with approximately 80 people in attendance. Mr. Maghamfar distributed 3 handouts related to the PMP update which are listed below:

- 1st Handout - Notes from a ride-along with the police department from the DPB Chair and Vice Chair
- 2nd Handout - A letter from Trinity Cathedral regarding Trinity events and the use of parking facilities for events throughout the year
- 3rd Handout - An e-mail from a concerned citizen that could not attend the community meeting

1st Handout

Mr. Ortbal introduced Dan Katz, Deputy Chief of Police, who is involved with the Downtown Working Group (DWG) and recently attended the Responsible Hospitality Institute Conference in Chicago. Deputy Katz will discuss the downtown entertainment issues.

Deputy Katz stated that the police department has a downtown services detail of approximately 50 police officers that work overtime from 1am – 3am Thursday – Saturday providing enforcement in the entertainment zone. Last year this labor cost was approximately \$900,000, and this year it will cost approximately \$1 million. Deputy Katz said that the garages have become a destination spot for underage drinking and smoking. There is tremendous vandalism to the garages, equipment and patron's vehicles.

Chair Gemignani and Vice Chair Monley referred to the March 2nd police ride-along handout and stated that they saw a lot of inappropriate behavior taking place in the garages at night.

Mr. Ortbal added that private parking security cannot handle the inappropriate behavior in the garages without the police department's presence. He said that most of the inappropriate late night activity occurs in the 3rd Street Garage and the Market Street Garage.

Mr. Maghamfar asked Deputy Katz how much negative activity would be subsided by safety features (cameras, lights, etc.) installed in the garages in other cities. Deputy Katz said that no safe feature replaces a uniform presence. Cameras and lights may be a deterrent, but they are just an enhancement to the overall policing strategy.

Board Member Bales stated that he has seen an improvement in inappropriate activity in downtown streets due to the mass police presence; however, the mass is very intimidating.

Board Member Tibbils remarked that most of the public comment from the community meeting on Monday was that the public does support the \$2 after 6pm parking rate but does not support the \$5 after 10pm parking rate. He indicated that the revenue generated from the \$2 charge could pay for cameras in the parking facilities to deter inappropriate behavior.

Vice Chair Monley mentioned that violators were given tickets of \$150 for drinking in public. Mr. Katz said that the tickets will turn into warrants if they are not paid, so they should be taken seriously.

Scott Knies (SJDA) said that the Downtown Working Group (DWG) is working on the security and safety of the parking facilities as well as the Board, and he reminded the Board that this is only one element of the overall PMP to discuss today.

Vice Chair Monley stated that the Board's mission should be expanded to include safe and clean parking facilities.

2nd Handout

Mr. Maghamfar stated that the 2nd handout is a calendar of events for the ministries and attendance for Trinity Cathedral. He introduced Lee Barford from Trinity Cathedral to present the material.

Lee Barford reviewed the calendar of events and stated his concerns below:

- Church members not being able to park in the 3rd Street Garage if the garage was sold. On Sundays, approximately 40 vehicles park on St. John Street and the remainder park in the 3rd Street Garage.
- On Friday evenings, the Winchester Orchestra series are held six times a year at the church. The members are volunteers and he does not think the volunteers should have to pay for parking.
- There are also weddings on Saturdays that may not take place if they have to pay for parking in the evening.
- On Friday and Saturday evenings, New Families, a foster parent placement agency, hosts meetings and he does not think that they should have to pay for parking.

Chair Gemignani stated that a condition of the 3rd Street Garage sale would be to have it remain available to the general public.

Board Member Saglimbeni asked if validating smaller group events would be manageable versus validating larger group events. Mr. Barford said that it may be more manageable.

Board Member Bales asked where the church members parked when parking was not free. Mr. Barford said that he suspects they searched for metered parking spaces.

Mr. Ortbal asked Mr. Barford for additional detail for the smaller group events (frequency of meetings and timeframe) for validation purposes. Mr. Ortbal suggested adding Sunday evenings as free parking at the 4th/St. John Garage in addition to Monday – Thursday to accommodate church events.

3rd Handout

Mr. Maghamfar stated that Angelina Dew-Upton, a resident, communicated her parking questions and concerns for the PMP to staff through an e-mail because she was unable to attend the community meeting. These questions and concerns are listed below:

- In regards to phase 1, recommendation #12, she asked if the decrease of subsidies from the City will affect participating businesses and institutions from continuing to be a part of the validation program or change the amount of time they will be able to validate.

- In regards to phase 2, recommendation #5, she does not support eliminating the Free Parking Program after 6pm. She lives close to 12th Street and Santa Clara Street and she has come to rely on the free parking in the evening to dine, shop and for entertainment. She asked if it was possible to provide downtown residents, businesses, and employees a parking pass to be able to continue parking in the garages without paying a fee or obtaining evening validation.
- In regards to phase 3, recommendation #3, she believes that the parking meter hours of operation should remain the same.

Mr. Maghamfar invited the Board to begin deliberation of the overall PMP recommendations.

B. PMP Update – Restated Implementation Plan

Board Member Saglimbeni proposed to accept the current PMP 2007 Update with the following exceptions:

- Remove the proposed \$5 parking rate after 10pm
- Include the 4th Street/St. John Garage in the Free Parking Program on Sunday evenings
- Maintain the retail validation participation at 95% / 5 %
- Implement the proposed \$2 evening parking rate after 6pm beginning January 2008

Board Member Saglimbeni suggested exploring the parking citation change proposed by SJDA independently. Jim Ortbal said that the administrative cost of dismissing a ticket at \$1 is challenging as the City would have to pay \$5 to the state.

Chair Gemignani suggested keeping the \$5 parking rate after 10pm as an option for future implementation.

Jim Ortbal said that not charging the \$5 parking rate after 10pm is not supported by the Police Department, and the cost of implementing a Security, Maintenance and Cleaning program would deplete the current financial resources of the Parking Fund.

Board Member Renelle supports implementing the \$2 parking rate after 6pm in the evenings beginning July 1, 2007. Scott Knies (SJDA) said that the association would not support the implementation to begin July 2007 because they want to see the parking supply increased and the clean and safe program implemented in the garages.

Board Member Saglimbeni moved that his proposal above be converted to a motion. Board Member Bales seconded.

Board Member Bales proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to implement the \$2 evening parking rate to begin July 2007. Board Member Renelle seconded. Board Member Saglimbeni did not accept the amendment.

Board Member Saglimbeni indicated his support to implement the \$2 rate at the 3rd Street and Market Street Garages in July 2007, and in all other parking facilities beginning January 2008.

Board Member Bales disagreed in that implementing a two-tiered pricing is confusing and difficult to market.

Vice Chair Monley proposed as a compromise that the Downtown Association agree to the \$2 charge in July in exchange for not charging the \$5 rate after 10pm. Mr. Knies responded that the \$5 charge was introduced very late in the mix and this is not a fair approach.

Vice Chair Monley asked Scott Knies if providing additional supply is related to getting private parking garages to open. Scott Knies said that he hopes more private garages will open, however, acquiring the Greyhound site would offer more parking supply as well as liquidating an asset (3rd Street Garage), then using those funds for future parking development would offer more parking supply.

Mr. Maghamfar stated that the Greyhound site acquisition and the Greyhound relocation may not happen at the same timeframe. Negotiations with Greyhound would include allowing Greyhound to maintain operation until they are relocated.

Mr. Ortbal added that an additional \$1.5 million will be needed to purchase the Greyhound site for a total cost of \$12 million. He suggested using the Parking Plus funds allocated to the Living Tomorrow project to close that gap.

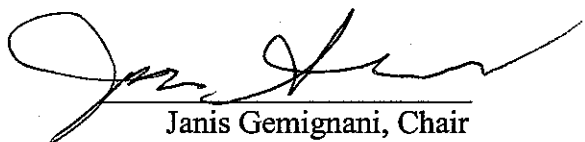
The Board voted on the original motion by Board Member Saglimbeni. The motion passed (4-0-3). Noes: Vice Chair Monley, Board Member Bales, Board Member Renelle.

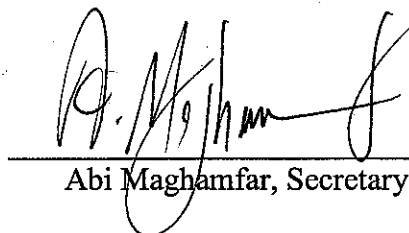
4. Future Agenda Items

- Security, Maintenance, and Cleaning Enhancement proposal – April 2007
- Operating / Capital Budget 2007-08 – May 2007

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:08a.m.


Janis Gemignani, Chair


Abi Maghamfar, Secretary