

City of Westfield, Massachusetts

OFF-STREET PARKING COMMISSION

Eli Meyer, Chr
Joseph Golio
John Regan
Bridget Matthews-
Kane, Council Liaison

CITY HALL
59 COURT STREET
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
413-572-6202 x2

OFF-STREET PARKING COMMISSION MEETING **Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM

Commissioner Regan and Commissioner Golio were present.

In the absence of Chairperson Meyer, a motion was made by Commissioner Golio to elect Commissioner Regan as Chairman Pro Tem for the April 26, 2022, Off-Street Parking Commission meeting.

The next Off-Street Parking Commission meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 6:00 PM in Room 315, City Hall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Regan, seconded and unanimously VOTED to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2022, meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Update from Community Development Director Peter Miller regarding the following:

- In the absence of a Conservation Coordinator, there has not been an Earth Day clean-up for the city. Peter will speak with the mayor to see if he can schedule a downtown clean-up for early to mid-May. He indicated that we want downtown to look as clean as it can and especially for the Run Westfield block party held on May 21st. We will advertise by social media and the city website to recruit people to participate.
- Clean-Up should be easier this year since Dave Moretti from Garten did a major clean-out of the beds and lots this past fall.
- DPW has also been cleaning up the curb beds on the downtown streets as well.
- We have been fortunate in years past to have mulch donated to us, so if we have enough volunteers maybe we could coordinate that and refresh the beds in the lots.

- Curative truck is still using Railroad Avenue as a Covid Testing Site and we expect them there until the end of June.

a. Off-Street Revolving Account Amendment

Passed by council at their last meeting. As of July 1, 2022, the language will be amended and then we will be allowed to install cameras to watch the dumpster areas. We will move forward this summer to purchase and install the new cameras in the specified lots.

Our Revolving account balance is currently at \$50,360.72. The receipts to date total \$22,688.95 parking permits and meter machine revenue. The bid that we have for the cameras is about \$24,000-\$26,000. We will need to re-strip our lots and re-number our lots as well. Commissioner Golio asked how much our meter machine generated for revenue and does it cover the expense of the machine. Peter Miller answered, "Not a lot and no." The primary reason the meter machine was installed was because when the Court House had first opened and they were doing jury trials and they needed a place to park. The lot was overwhelmed with parking and we needed the machine to give motorists the ability to purchase time instead of receiving a ticket after three hours. It costs us \$2400 a year to service the machine. If we get \$500 a year out of it, that's a stretch it's a net drain on us. It is subsidized by the monthly parking permits purchased but it is still there because we don't have a better option.

b. Downtown Events

We signed our license agreement for the Brew Fest to utilize our Central Street Lot. They were told they can use the lot from Friday at noon until Monday morning.

May 21st Run Westfield is happening. Elm Street will be closed. There will be no inhibition on our lots.

c. Elm Street/Gravel Lot Plans

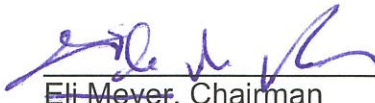
Peter Miller handed out a sketch, a concept plan for what the Mayor is proposing to have happen in the Elm Street Gravel lot. The philosophy right now is that it is a visual nuisance downtown. It's currently a big hole that is both a psychological and physical boundary between the southern and northern part of downtown. In lieu of a building, which the plan remains at some point in the future, the Mayor is proposing a temporary solution to our downtown needs. He would like it to happen as soon as possible. The focal part would be a park and a stage to move concerts from the green to this new area. The thought is concerts, public gathering space, and beautification of a space that otherwise is not beautiful at this point and to increase downtown activity as a place to gather.

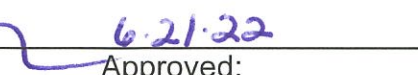
ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

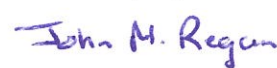
1. Approval of monthly bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Regan, seconded and unanimously VOTED to approve the monthly regular and revolving bills as submitted.

With no further business, a motion was made by Chairman Regan, and unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM.


Eli Meyer, Chairman

 6-21-22
Approved:


John M. Regan