

Commissioner Gracy agreed with the other Commissioners and advised that Kyle Johnson at Dunedin High School was interested in this committee. Ms. Brodhead would get in touch with him.

Mayor Bujalski asked if the members of the committee learn how City government operates. Ms. Brodhead stated that is a component she would like to build and develop and would like to invite the Mayor and Commissioners to attend their meetings. Mayor Bujalski is very supportive of the committee and would like to hear more of their advice in addition to the Parks & Recreation Department.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Commissioner Freaney and seconded by Commissioner Kynes to continue the Youth Advisory Committee for another three years.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6.\*\*\* STARRED ITEM \*\*\*\* RESOLUTION 16-33**, amending Resolution 16-22, Section 1, Item 6 “Complimentary (Free) Parking Areas (2 Hours Maximum)” by adding “c. Main Street east of Highland Avenue (M-F only until 6:00 p.m.)” to the list.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Commissioner Gracy and seconded by Commissioner Tornga to place the item on the agenda.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Commissioner Freaney and seconded by Commissioner Gracy to adopt Resolution 16-33.

Planning and Development Director Rice advised:

Staff is bringing this forward prior to the scheduled quarterly report as an issue that cannot wait.

There is a difference in the way the system is operating from west of Highland Avenue and east of Highland Avenue.

Two business owners were present to speak to the issue and provide information on what has happened since instituting paid parking.

Janet Long from Cookie Crumbs at 513 Main Street commented she has been in her location for 10 years. Since the parking meters, she has seen a significant decrease in business. Customers have been vocal of not shopping here due to having to pay for the parking meters when they will be in and out in just a few minutes. She commented this part of town looks like a ghost town and many have thought the business were closed when they are actually open. She noted that the demographics of this side of town are different as they are quick stop locations.

Ms. Long also read a letter into the record from Nick and Susan Annenos, owners of Hot Dogs on Main at 505 Main Street, who had a family matter and were unable to attend the meeting. The letter reiterated the same points made by Ms. Long and added that they are certain there is no significant revenue being generated during weekday hours in this location.

Morris Hensley of McGuire’s Barbershop at 553 Main Street commented he has owned his business for the past 7 years and has increased the number of employees. His barbershop relies on foot traffic and easy parking. His business has dropped these past few months. His

busy season is just starting and snowbirds are already stating they cannot come back to his shop due to the meters. All anyone needs to be in his business is 20 to 30 minutes, so 2 hours would be good for them.

Mr. Rice advised:

Since the demand is so low during the day it should be free and the pricing should be based on demand; therefore, in this case, it looks abandoned which is not wanted and no one wants these three businesses to fail which are a different operating market as compared to west of Highland.

There has been good response from The Living Room, Flannigan's and all three of Kathy Carlson's businesses, Walt's, Bon Appétit are all doing better and like having parking available for their customers. There have been mixed reviews from Café Alfresco.

Staff wants to come back in January with whatever help there can be in other areas; however, in this case, at some point with the Gateway development and two craft breweries coming on line, hopefully, there will be a different amount of people walking on this end of Main Street. When paid parking was first considered the thought was that Gateway would be underway and that the breweries would be open, but they are not.

Staff recommends free parking during the day to get activity back and get these businesses back to normal and then go to paid, the same as the 500 Wood Street lot, at 6:00 p.m. and 2 hours enforced free parking like the small lot adjacent to City Hall.

#### Commission Questions

Commissioner Gracy inquired how far east this would be. Mr. Rice advised right now the recommendation is all the way to Main Street because the same issues are up the block especially with the Gateway site being vacant.

When Mr. Rice commented on the hope that the activity will change over time and then it could change back, Commissioner Gracy questioned what happens then and would there be some of the same fall out. Mr. Rice stated within the pilot period he did not see that happening because the Gateway will not be constructed during that time. Mr. Ironsmith agreed.

Commissioner Tornga asked if it is known when the breweries are going to open and Mr. Ironsmith advised the City did not have a definitive date.

Commissioner Tornga clarified the change would go all the way to Skinner Boulevard. He commented he wanted to be sure if this is approved that staff would continue to keep an open mind about fluidity here in concert with the comments by Commissioner Gracy in that if the change is made it is watched very carefully for abuse and not achieve the goal.

Mr. Rice noted in the first two months the revenue from these pay stations is next to nothing; therefore, this change will not affect the model. In terms of someone moving their car every two hours; the common sense thing to do is park at the 500 Wood Street lot that is free and has huge availability all day Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Kynes cited an example of parking in this area and having 2 hours of enforced free parking and Mr. Rice explained after 2 hours a warning or ticket would be issued if the car is in the same spot; that is until 6:00 p.m. She verified this change is based on the occupancy rate.

Mr. Rice reiterated the difference in this area where the businesses are quick in and out from other areas where people are going to spend more time.

Commissioner Kynes noted the business owners are providing data on the percentage of loss they suffered which is a good guideline along with the occupancy information.

When Commissioner Freaney inquired about enforcement, Mr. Rice explained the license plate reading vehicle will record the plates and on the next pass, after 2 hours, if the same vehicle is in the same space they will at least receive a warning. She reiterated with Mr. Rice that when the new businesses come in and there is more activity then the issue will be revisited.

Commissioner Freaney asked how people will know it is free now and Mr. Rice advised he has suggested A-frame or sandwich board signs at the end of each block.

Mayor Bujalski clarified with Mr. Rice the information will be put on Facebook so people will know before they come about the change.

Mayor Bujalski inquired about the financial impacts and explained she thought this was only going to Milwaukee. Mr. Rice explained there is flexibility on that and went over the current revenue percentages on the meters.

Mayor Bujalski verified with Mr. Rice he did not reach out to the consultant Walker about this change; he preferred to follow Shoup.

Mayor Bujalski opened the agenda item to public comment.

John Medeiros of 2368 Mangrum Drive stated he thought it the appropriate time to make another appeal to remove the pay components of this parking system. The rules can be enforced as have been mentioned by Mr. Rice. This is confusing and getting more confusing and is effecting the businesses. He frequents McGuire's and other businesses. He does not see why Dunedin does not do what other cities are doing such as Madeira Beach exempting citizens from paying for parking and let the tourists pay. The citizens will pay when they violate the parking rules, but the kiosks should not exist for residents who pay taxes for leased lots for other people to pay and then they pay for leased lots where other people are not paying the lease portion. It is unfair and especially to the business community.

Cathy Greenwood of 2239 Watrous Drive commented:

She has been frequenting the shops in downtown in her regular way and she is very concerned while understanding the income, expense, percentages and balance aspects of the issues.

For small price point businesses the losses are greater, if there is no occupancy in the parking then they do not have customers which could be a sign of unknown losses.

In walking around mid-town and talking with various shops it is clear the high-ticket shops are thrilled and want the turnover; however, the small ticket folks who make the area unique, charming and fun and owned by long time residents are hurting. She questioned if City staff is reaching out to these people to find out how they are doing and if they have noticed a difference.

She appreciated that the City is responding right away on this issue.

Marcia Sutton of 1195 Ford Lane commented for the over performing it is good and the underperforming end of town is going to go out of business and no one is going to replace those businesses.

Ms. Sutton questioned regarding parking for the Boat Parade and the Holiday Parade and how confusing it will be for people coming from all around the county and further. Mayor Bujalski stated the parking will be the same as it has always been.

With no one else wishing to speak public comment was closed.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Freaney commented she is sympathetic to the situation and confident in the staff recommendation with all the variables involved and is in support.

Commissioner Gracy commented she had planned on supporting the motion; she is appreciative of the time staff took to work with the merchants and make sure the broad policy is tweaked and that Mr. Rice was right in going back to Shoup to research the occupancy rate and the appropriate use of the asset. She was concerned about moving it too much. She thanked the business owners in attendance who expressed concern.

Commissioner Tornga commented regarding the signage for this issue that he trusts will be very obvious and noted possibly the other signs need to be bagged immediately, and to get the word out quickly to avoid confusion. He noted this is an effort to make use of the existing public asset and that intent should be clear as well as answers regarding regulations. He supported staff recommendation.

Commissioner Kynes expressed concern regarding equitability and felt this decision has been based on distinct elements including the non-use of a public asset, an occupancy rate that is not showing up and real data from the merchants on the effect. All that being said she supported the recommendation.

Mayor Bujalski stated her support for the motion and expressed appreciation for those coming forward and that staff worked with the businesses. She agreed with the comments regarding the retail mix on this end of the street where they are having issues.

Mayor Bujalski commented she does not want to see the mix of businesses change and become all bars and restaurants with all the small businesses being forced out. She does not want any unintended consequences and creating an environment where those are the only businesses that can thrive.

**VOTE:** Motion carried with Commissioners Kynes, Tornga, Gracy, Freaney and Mayor Bujalski voting aye. Voting nay: None

**1. ANNUAL SELECTION OF VICE-MAYOR** *(per City Charter Sec. 3.05 – 1st regular meeting after election)*

Mayor Bujalski explained the process for the selection of Vice-Mayor and advised this is done annually.

Ballots were distributed in order for each member of the Commission to identify a person they would like to nominate for Vice-Mayor. All ballots returned reflected Commissioner Kynes.

<b>Nomination Results</b>	
<b>Commission Member</b>	<b>Selected</b>
Commissioners Freaney	Commissioner Kynes
Commissioner Kynes	Commissioner Kynes
Commissioner Gracy	Commissioner Kynes
Commissioner Tornga	Commissioner Kynes
Mayor Bujalski	Commissioner Kynes