

Advisory Parking Committee
Meeting of January 8, 2025
151 Martin Street, City Commission Room, Birmingham, MI

Minutes

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on January 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Committee Members Jim Arpin, Kevin Kozlowski, Michelle Moody, Michele Taddei, Lisa Silverman

Absent: Alternate Committee Member Mary-Claire Petcoff

Staff: Parking Systems Manager Ford; Assistant City Manager Clemence, City Transcriptionist Eichenhorn

2. Approval of Minutes, December 2024

Motion by Moody

Seconded by Silverman to approve the minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Taddei, Silverman, Kozlowski, Moody, Arpin

Nays: None

3. EV Charging Open Discussion – Eric Graettinger from Peter Basso Associates, Inc.

PSM Ford introduced the item and Eric Graettinger from Peter Basso Associates, Inc. presented the item. Both answered informational questions from the APC.

During discussion, APC members made the following comments:

- Many EV owners still have concerns about having adequate range and are likely to charge their vehicles when away from home if there is a convenient option to do so.
- EV owners are also unlikely to be deterred by charging costs presently, because many prefer not to do the requisite calculations.
- Public charging may become more popular with electric vehicle fleets.
- The City must balance providing the infrastructure for electric vehicle charging with the actual demand in order to ensure that sufficient parking supply for internal combustion engine vehicles also remains.
- It would likely be appropriate to install a few electric vehicle chargers in different environments around the City to determine utilization.

- The number of electric vehicles seems to be increasing in Birmingham.
- Typical range of an EV is 200-300 miles.
- Level one charges would not result in a full charge even after 12 hours. Installing level one charges would likely be a waste of City resources. Level two chargers would likely be most appropriate for most use cases in Birmingham, possibly with a couple level three chargers as well.
- Not all Birmingham residents have access to electric vehicle charging at their home.
- Having chargers would likely be useful for residents and visitors because electric vehicle owners may leave their house without a full charge and need to re-charge during the day.
- Even if someone is entirely using commercial electric vehicle charging, it tends to be less expensive than using gas.
- The City would have to study the most appropriate charger types to install.
- Likely changes in charger technology need to be considered in terms of the appropriate present investment in chargers.
- There are spaces where electric vehicle chargers would not make sense to install.
- The Commission would need to decide whether chargers would be an amenity, something to break even, or something to make money on, and the approach would be different for each.
- Breakeven or modestly profitable would likely be more appropriate. Birmingham should also charge around market rate, as it is possible for drivers to compare pricing.
- Putting chargers in the less-utilized garages to start would make sense.

The Chair thanked Mr. Graettinger.

4. Transparency Portal

PSM Ford presented the item and answered informational questions from the APC.

During discussion, APC members made the following comments:

- This portal will be very useful.
- Feedback would be conveyed to Finance regarding some small recommendations for how the data could be made more clear.
- Revenue seems to be up over the previous year, indicating an increase in parking utilization.
- The portal shows different data from the parking reports staff provides.

5. Parking Reports

PSM Ford answered informational questions from the APC.

During discussion, APC members made the following comments:

- Chester has recently had more of its available parking occupied because of its temporarily reduced capacity.

- Being oversold on monthly permits has previously been a concern for the APC.
- It is important to ensure that sufficient parking remains in the garages for transient parkers. There have been times prior to the Covid-19 pandemic where little-to-no transient parking was available in the garages, even outside of peak times.
- Reserving more spaces for transient parkers may be worth studying.
- It would be helpful to have data outside of 1 p.m.
- 1 p.m. is peak occupancy, so any other time can be assumed to be lower occupancy.
- While it might seem like the parking fund had a surplus, much of that will have to go towards maintenance and capital investments.
- Price is presently the best way for the APC to affect parking location and demand.
- Birmingham also makes other efforts to allow people to reach downtown without having to drive or park.
- It would be helpful to know how often monthly passes are used in each garage.
- APC members should reflect on what reports would be helpful on a monthly basis.

6. Meeting open to the public for items not on the agenda

The APC welcomed new member Michele Taddei.

APC comments were as follows:

- Widening the parking spaces in Chester was an appropriate recommendation, given a recent experience where a number of vehicles in Chester were parked over the lines.
- A piece from the Wall Street Journal regarding electric vehicles was shared with PSM Ford.

7. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.



Aaron Ford, Parking Systems Manager

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist