

## WESTWOOD PARKING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting  
Held on March 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. pursuant to the open public meeting laws of the State of New Jersey. The roll was taken. In attendance were the following members:

- Francis Costello
- John Oberg
- Sue Bahng
- Joseph Green

The following individuals, serving in various official capacities, were also present:

- Jack Sauer, Administrator
- Thomas Garrity, Assistant Administrator
- Michael Pellegrino, Esq., Attorney for Parking Authority
- Peter Grefrath, Council Liaison – arrived at 730
- Steve Naginsky,, Chamber of Commerce President
- Joseph Abou-Daoud, Chamber Representative

The following members were absent:

Matt Foley

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Administrator's Report:**

Jack Sauer indicated the following:

- Stated that our November meeting date was not acceptable. A new date of November 19<sup>th</sup> has been approved.
- Placards for .50 parking were made out of cardboard

Chairman Costello discusses a concept for employee parking. He suggests that a permit would be issued and the charge would be commensurate with the metered rate per month for designated spots. A tag would contain pertinent information on it.

Joseph Abou-Daod a representative of the Chamber of Commerce comments:

- The Chamber is in favor of designated employee parking
- Would also like to see tire chalking for ticketing purposes
- Will poll the Chamber to see if businesses would be willing to pay an annual fee or bi-annually.

Chairman Costello comments the following;

- Believes that at some point there may not be sufficient designated employee parking and would be in favor of raising the CBD parking rates.
- A designated employee parking space would cost \$300 per year.
- Requested that Mr. Pellegrino check to see if the ordinance would have to be changed.
- Believes that on the street parking rate should be increased from .10 to .20

Liaison Grefrath arrived at 7:30 p.m. and Chairman Costello brings him up to date.

Chairman Costello provides further comments:

- We need to facilitate parking in the CBD and moving cars after 2 hour limit
- We have a parking study that is 7 years old that we have not acted on and it is time to do so
- Meters are equipped to take tokens, which may be an option to look into. Merchants could purchase tokens to give to their patrons for their return visit
- It is evident that the Chamber would like the on the street parking problem resolved. Chairman Costello requests that the Chamber give the WPA a letter to that effect

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Thomas Garrity reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement and advised as followings:

- First few months have been quiet. Collections could be better but weather has been an issue.
- One of the issues we have to address is the service personnel that are parking their vehicles on the Westwood Avenue all day.
- The Audit is 95% complete

#### **LEGAL REPORT:**

The annual letter to Lerch Vinci and Higgins has been sent out.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A Motion was made by Sue Bahng seconded by John Oberg and unanimously approved to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2013. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Francis Costello	Aye
John Oberg	Aye
Matt Foley	Absent
Joseph Green	Aye

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Francis opens up the floor for discussion by Joseph Abou-Daoud of the Chamber who states the following:

- Discusses that he has witnessed many people feeding the meters on Westwood Avenue by service personnel as well as others
- Chamber would like to pursue having a Farmer's Market to raise money in Memory of Elizabeth Fasiano who passed away. This would enable a scholarship to be put in place for the benefit of a student who would be pursuing medical school.
- An empty lot is required and they were thinking of a Tuesday. Community Life would advertise and this would be a great way to bring customers into town. The Fairview lot has been considered.

Chairman Costello suggests that Saturday would be a better day and after discussion among the Trustees, it was further suggested that the Municipal Lot would be a good location.

The Farmer's Market would be a way for businesses to promote themselves as well as promote the idea of walking the town.

Outside vendors would be sought to provide goods and services that merchants in Westwood do not provide.

Liaison Grefrath indicated that he would bring this concept to the attention of the Mayor and Council and would require more definite information.

A Motion was made by Joseph Green and seconded by John Oberg to approve the use of the Park Avenue lot on the side of Washington Avenue lot to hold a Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 10-3. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Francis Costello	Aye
John Oberg	Aye
Matt Foley	Absent
Joseph Green	Aye

Chairman Costello discusses the option of a kiosk over the master meters. Bill Martin, Architect had submitted a design, which is pending approval. Mr. Garrity says that we have budgeted for these kiosks.

Chairman Costello shows the logo that Iris Orsini created for the Chamber and discusses the following:

- This logo is a good start.
- Blue is the universal color for parking

Joseph Abou-Daoud indicates that he has had some discussions with Iris Orsini and she does not see eye to eye with what the Chamber would like to do. Therefore, at the moment, the Chamber is not participating. He further states that the Chamber would be willing to take over a portion of the payments but would like only the Chamber members to be listed. Ms. Orsini would like to have a meeting with Steve Naginsky and Chairman Costello to try to come to a resolution.

Chairman Costello explains that the Handiguide was originally brought to the WPA because at the time there was no Chamber in place. Pascack Community Bank and the hospital then came on board.

Chairman Costello speaks about parking rates as follows:

- 7 years ago the WPA spent a lot of money to conduct a parking study.
- Rate study was completed
- Study reported that we had to try to move traffic away from Westwood Avenue
- Is recommending .20 parking on Bergen Street, Kinderkamack Road, Irvington Street and Eastside of Broadway.
- Indicates that expenses are getting closer to our revenue
- Believes that in a year or two the WPA would be beyond the break even point
- Suggests that parking hours should be extended to 9:00 p.m.
- Many people from out of town are using the commuter lots
- Rates have not increased for 32 years
- Chairman Costello will draft a letter to Mayor and Council with regard to a .20 per hour rate in the CBD leaving the rates in the lots the same

Liaison Grefrath will bring the increase proposal to the Mayor and Council.

Steve Naginsky is in favor of a rate increase and believes that people will not be adverse to it.

The Trustees believe that we should either pursue the rate increase or the extended hours, but not both.

There being no further new business, a Motion was made by John Oberg, seconded by Sue Bahng and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

At 8:48 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Date:

  
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Sue Bahng