

**DOWNTOWN NEW WESTMINSTER  
PARKING COMMISSION**

**Thursday, February 21, 2013; 11:30 am  
EOC #2, City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce Clark	Community
Alexander Csizmadia	Community
Patti Goss	Chamber of Commerce (12:10 pm)
Karen Maynes	Douglas College
Nancy Puri	Community
Richard (Dick) Spring	Community
Harm Woldring	Downtown New Westminster BIA

**NON-VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Jeff Pearson	Impark
--------------	--------

**STAFF:**

Catalin Dobrescu	Utilities Engineer, Engineering Services
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services

Mr. Dobrescu asked for volunteers to act as chair for this term of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission and it was determined that this item would be discussed later in the Agenda. Ms. Maynes agreed to Chair this meeting of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT** Ms. Karen Maynes be appointed as Chair for the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission.

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 11:42 am.

**1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- 5.4 Bikram Yoga request for a reduction in monthly parking rates – Mr. Dobrescu
- 5.5 Parkade Parking - Correctional Service of Canada – Mr. Clark

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Adoption of Minutes of November 28, 2012

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission meeting held November 28, 2012 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

Procedural Note: Section 3.0 Presentations will be conducted later in the Agenda.

## 4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 4.1 Carnarvon Street Parkade Elevator Update – Mr. Dobrescu

Mr. Dobrescu provided a brief summary on the history of the Carnarvon Street Parkade and informed members that the elevator had been out of order since late 2012. Repairs were completed earlier this year and the elevator is now operational with new pumps in place. Work is now underway to connect these pumps to the building alarm's system. All work was contracted to Thyssen as we have an ongoing maintenance agreement with them.

## 5.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Confirmation of Free Parking at the Parkade for Family Day, February 11, 2013 – Mr. Dobrescu

A poll of members was conducted in January and this motion is confirmation of that poll.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*THAT the request from the City for free parking at the Parkade for Family Day on February 11, 2013 be granted. The Parks, Culture & Recreation staff will be responsible for erecting signage.*

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

### 5.2 Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission 2013 Meeting Dates and Vice Chair - Mr. Dobrescu

Following are the meeting dates set for the 2013/2014 term:

- **Wednesday, May 1**
- **Wednesday, September 4**
- **Wednesday, November 20**

### **5.3 Request for Free Parking at the Parkade for Riverfest; September 27 and 28, 2013**

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*THAT the request from Fraser River Discovery Centre for free parking at the Parkade be granted from 4pm on September 27 and all day September 28, 2013. FRDC will be responsible for erecting directional signage and the City will arrange to have free parking signs posted at both entrances of the Parkade.*

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

### **5.4 Bikram Yoga New Westminster Request for Reduction in Parking Fees – Mr. Dobrescu**

Mr. Dobrescu updated members on the history of reduced parking fees at the Parkade. There are a group of individuals that are receiving a reduced rate which were granted in a certain underutilized area of the Parkade. This reduced rate was extended to the Columbia School of Massage and Bikram Yoga. The policy is a minimum of 10 stalls at a rate of \$40 each. Bikram Yoga are requesting a reduction of the stall rate to \$20 for each of their 20 spaces.

During this discussion, one member stated they have seen vehicles on the Front Street Parkade with a note advising they are representing the Police and are not to be charged. Mr. Dobrescu will investigate this issue and report back to the Commission. A member was asking about the Senior Services Society and staff will check with Impark to see if they did accept the offer of reduced parking.

The BIA has stated that New Westminister is the most expensive city in which to operate a business and there are a larger set of issues behind this. Parking costs reduce traffic in New Westminister. One member requested that we find out what the recent downtown parking study has discovered, and staff will provide a copy to members when it is finalized.

It was suggested that parking rates should be based on higher pricing for more desirable spaces to encourage turnover and discourage long-term parking.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

*THAT the request from Bikram Yoga New Westminister for a reduction in the monthly parking rate by 50% at the Parkade be denied by the Commission.*

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

**5.5 Parkade Parking - Correctional Service of Canada – Mr. Clark**

Mr. Clark advised that Correctional Service of Canada at 600 Columbia Street are unaware of the preferential rate of \$40 based on the 10 stall requirement. This evening the regular monthly meeting of Correctional Service of Canada will be held and he would like to provide information to them as he is a volunteer with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) attached to CSC New Westminster Area Community Corrections. The users of the parking for CSC would include administrative staff, parole officers, etc. and Mr. Clark asked if they would they qualify for the reduced rate. A member suggested that CSC would have to apply as an organization for the reduction, rather than providing a reduced rate to each individual.

Staff will investigate whether there are restrictions to the reduced rate at the Parkade and report back at the next meeting. Members will be provided with the criteria set when the reduced rate parking was approved by the Commission.

**6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

**6.1 Parkade Operator's Report – For information only**

Mr. Pearson was unable to attend the meeting but the January report was provided to members with the Agenda package. One member stated that the parking revenue appears to be declining and members were informed that Larco has reduced their parking rates.

**6.2 Parkade Maintenance Report – Mr. Catalin Dobrescu**

Mr. Dobrescu updated members on the 2013 proposed maintenance of the Parkade:  
**Front Street Parkade:**

- Pothole delamination repair;
- Request to re-membrane the 4<sup>th</sup> Street ramp and a portion of C Deck; and
- Replacement of the railings. He is working on RFP and membrane work will be added to this request.

**Carnarvon Street Parkade:**

- Elevator now working

Army and Navy did not respond to the letter requesting that the pedestrian overpass be removed and if not the City will do it. Mr. Dobrescu will get a legal opinion on this action and have a plan in place before the next meeting.

One member asked about the column painting from 6th Street to Begbie Street. This would have to be done during the summer months. The painting was stopped last year because the movie industry did not want the Parkade painted and a delegation of businesses from Front Street came to City Hall and also requested the work stop. The movie industry is now gone and businesses have changed ownership so Mr. Woldring advised that the new group of business owners would like to see improvements and painting done. One member asked if we should survey the businesses in the Front Street area or as an option, that the BIA discuss this with the Front Street businesses.

Staff will send out an information letter to businesses asking if there is any reason not to proceed with the painting in accordance with the terms of the original request which included 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Begbie Street, and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Dobrescu left the meeting at 12:45 pm

### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3.1 Committee Orientation and Oath of Office – Legislative Services**

Ms. Lam introduced herself and administered the Oath of Office to members and provided an overview, highlights of which are:

- Many Committees/Commissions have a Council member but there are some that do not. The Chair reviews agenda and minutes and keeps the meetings on track;
- The Chair tries to avoid back and forth debates and to control the discussions to ensure business is covered;
- DRAFT copy of minutes will be sent to members with Agenda packages along with Mayor, Council and Legislative Services;
- All motions require a Secunder, but that Secunder does not have to vote in favour or show agreement of that motion. There are no tie votes and if there are, the motion is defeated. There are no abstentions. If you abstain, that vote is deemed in favour of the vote. Members can however leave the room which will be noted in the minutes;
- Quorum is 50% of the vote plus one. For this Commission, five members are required for quorum and if a quorum is not present, action cannot be taken; and
- Commission Meeting Attendance – Time and commitment is required when volunteering for the City. Members need to let the Chair or staff liaison know if they are no longer able to continue with the Committee to give someone else an opportunity.

Ms. Prothero left the meeting at 12:54 pm and returned at 12:59 pm.

After a general discussion regarding the position of Chair, Mr. Clark agreed to have his name put forward as the Parking Commission Chair.

#### **Moved and Seconded**

**THAT** Mr. Bruce Clark be appointed as Chair of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission for the February 2013 to January 2014 term.

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

After a general discussion, Mr. Harm Woldring agreed to have his name put forward as the Vice Chair of the Parking Commission

#### **Moved and Seconded**

**THAT** Mr. Harm Woldring be appointed as Vice Chair of the Downtown New Westminster Parking Commission for the February 2013 to January 2014 term.

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

Ms. Goss left the meeting @ 1:12

**7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT** the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

7.1 **NIMBE Community Cleanup**

**CARRIED**

All Commission members voted in favor of this motion.

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, May 1 @ 11:30 am  
Committee Room #2, City Hall

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm

---

**KAREN MAYNES  
ACTING CHAIR**

---

**KATHY PROTHERO  
RECORDING CLERK**