

**PARKING BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS  
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017**

1. Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30.M. Notice of the meeting was provided to the *Dells Events*, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

Present: Ald. Ben Anderson, Mayor Brian Landers, Ald. Ed Wojnicz, Ald. Mike Freel, Police Chief Jody Ward, Public Works/Utilities Director David Holzem and Keith Koehler. Kelli Trumble arrived at 5:50pm.

Others: Ald. Jesse DeFosse, City Clerk/Coordinator Nancy Holzem, City Planner Chris Tollaksen, City Attorney Joseph Hasler, Justin Draper, and Ed Legge from the *Dells Events*.

2. Motion by Keith Koehler seconded by Ald. Freel to approve the May 10, 2017 and May 15, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion by Keith Koehler seconded by Ald. Freel to approve there request of Muscle Car Adventures to utilize Elm Street parking areas for a car display after their parade on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Chief Ward stated the goal was to keep them just in the lots, but if need be, they will use the street. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Ald. Freel seconded by Keith Koehler to end parking enforcement a day earlier this year due to Kilbourn City Live Music & Arts Festival on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Last day of parking enforcement for the season would be Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Chief Ward stated that he came up with a way to utilize the “free parking” stickers by putting them on a type of poster board and placing them inside the meter dome instead of placing the sticker on the outside of the dome. They can then be used year after year. Justin Draper asked about the meter stall number markers on posts. He stated the people have to walk to the kiosk in order to find out that it’s free parking. Ald. DeFosse stated that he wants people to see from their cars when they are parking that it’s free. Chief Ward stated that he would look for an alternative for the posts. This was information only.
6. Chairperson Anderson gave an update on the proposed parking lot behind the Municipal Building. Public Works is currently working on the lot proposal. Anderson questioned if there would be paystations available. Chief Ward stated that he would need to order them. Ald. DeFosse stated that the VCB is nervous about not being able to stake tents in that area. Ald. Freel asked about putting permanent anchors in the lot. Public Works Director David Holzem stated that anchors end up moving with the freezing and thawing of the seasons, he added that they also cause issues with the plows. He advised Ald. DeFosse that he has been working the Jenifer at the VCB and that he is trying to incorporate what she needs into the lot plans. He added that if need be the city may have to make an exception and allow tent stakes in parking lots. Chairperson Anderson stated that there will need to be future discussion on how the entire municipal building parking lot area would function and what updates would be needed.

7. Ald. DeFosse gave a lengthy talk on why overnight parking tickets need to stop. He stated the people are being penalized for making good decision and for breaking a law that he feels they are unaware of. He talked about all the events and celebrations that take place downtown where alcohol is served. He talked about how overnight parking is allowed in Madison and that officers checking on cars as part of their jobs. He talked about how drinking is part of doing business in Wisconsin and being social with one another. He talked about the small amount of revenue the tickets bring in as the officers only write them when they have free time. He stated that the small amount of revenue generated was not worth the offensiveness that it causes. Ald. Freel questioned what time the overnight parking tickets were issued and how much revenue it generates. Chief Ward stated anywhere between 3:00am-5:00am and it generates about \$8000 in revenue. Ald. DeFosse stated that officers could start writing tickets right away in the morning (10am) to make up the lost revenue. Mayor Landers stated it was unfair to compare the city to Madison as their tickets are more expensive. He also added that Madison will tow your vehicle if it's left overnight. Keith agreed with Ald. DeFosse that change is needed. Public Works Director brought up concerns with the street sweeping and snow plowing with cars left parked on the streets and in the lots. Ald. DeFosse stated that if overnight parking is going to stay in force, the downtown would need to be rebranded so people know it's not legal. Ald. Freel suggested trying it for one year keeping track of how much overnight parking increases or decreases. Holzem questioned who was going to keep track of that and how. Ald. DeFosse stated that we are a community that thrives on indulges and celebrations and that getting a ticket is offensive. Mayor Landers stated that we are branded as a family destination and our ordinances are designed to keep our streets and lots clean. Ald. DeFosse stated that the branding as a family destination is a stubborn position, adding that the fasting growing segment here is adults without children. Kelli Trumble stated that parking lot cleanliness is a concern regardless of overnight parking, and if there is a huge increase, something would need to be done about it. Mayor Landers stated that if bars are going to benefit from this, maybe they should volunteer to clean the lots. Ald. DeFosse stated that what we are doing to the consumer for making a good decision not to drive has to end. Ald. Anderson expressed his concerns with preferential treatment with families coming downtown during the day having to pay for parking, while those coming downtown in the evening get to park and leave their car overnight for free. Ald. DeFosse disagreed stating there are many reasons why a car is left downtown. Ald. Freel stated that the former police chief use to rip up overnight parking ticket. Ald. DeFosse stated that people get embarrassed when other people see a red ticket on their car in the morning. Holzem stated that for him it's not about the revenue but keeping the lots and streets clean. Chief Ward stated that people should make good decisions before they come downtown so they don't have to leave their car. He added that he hopes this will not have a significant increase in cars left where police and public works have more challenges. Ald. Wojnicz stated his concerns with snow removal in the lots. Mayor Landers questioned how businesses are going to feel when the area in front of their business is not cleaned or plowed because of cars that were left overnight. Ald. DeFosse asked that the city give it a try instead of trying to deal with what ifs. Keith Koehler agreed stating there could be an easy solution to any issues without having to reinstate the tickets. Chief Ward and Mayor Landers both suggested starting with lots for free overnight parking. Ald. Wojnicz stated that if he had a business downtown he would be upset if cars were left that the area and it did not get cleaned or plowed. Ald. DeFosse recommended that the city suspend issuing overnight tickets and spend the next couple months addressing how snow removal would work in the winter. Keith agreed. Holzem stated that issues with snow removal are being under estimated. Ald. DeFosse suggested eliminating overnight parking citations now and systematically over the next couple of months, identify where we cannot have overnight parking. Holzem stated that affect this

will have on street cleaning and snow plowing is being under estimated as one car left in the middle of the block will prohibit the cleaning of several stalls around it as the trucks are big and don't turn on a dime. Koehler stated people are already leaving their car and we could put rules in place for the winter if need be. Holzem stated having different parking rules for different times of the year is confusing for people coming downtown. Motion by Ald. Freel seconded by Kelli to suspend overnight parking citations for one year. Motions were eventually rescinded. After ongoing debate, it was moved by Ald. Freel seconded by Keith Koehler to recommend to the Common Council for approval, a resolution to suspend all overnight parking citations as stated in Municipal Code sec. 10.22(1), until October 1<sup>st</sup>, during which time the committee will discuss how to address the issues with snow removal. Motion carried 6-2 with Ward and Holzem voting no.

8. There were no items for referral brought up. No date was set for the next meeting.
9. Motion by Mayor Landers seconded by Ald. Freel to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

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Nancy Holzem  
City Clerk/Coordinator