

Seawall Parking Review Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes of November 15, 2018

1. Declaration of a Quorum.

Eddie Walsh declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Call.

Robyn Bushong – Present
Eddie Walsh – Present
Cara Koza – Present
Susan Fennewald – Present
Marsha Canwright – Present
Dennis Byrd Jr. – Present
Scott Leimer – Present

3. Overview and discussion on Pay-By-Phone parking format

Michael Gray (City Marshal) provided an overview of his role in association with Seawall Parking, and offered to answer any questions the committee may have about the Seawall Parking plan, and how it was developed.

Eddie Walsh wanted to know how Seawall Parking is enforced including motorcycles, and golf carts.

Michael Gray then clarified the enforcement process for Seawall Parking, and what type of technology is used in enforcement. As well as the challenges, and the upgraded technology that will be implemented in the near future. He then began discussing how the transaction fee for Pay-By-Phone, differs from the Downtown Parking, due to the fact that it comes out of the parking fee.

Robyn Bushong asked if the City is happy with the current company that is providing Seawall Parking. Michael Gray addressed that he has been pleased with the product the city has received.

4. Discuss Park Board operation and maintenance costs associated with Seawall Parking

Scott Freudenberg (Park Board- Urban Park Manager) began the discussion with an update on costs, and the maintenance associated with the Seawall Park cleaning. Scott briefly discussed that the restrooms on Seawall were open late during Lone Star Rally, and received positive feedback.

Scott and Michael both addressed the topic of bank fees, and credit card transaction fees as it pertains to Seawall Parking.

5. Review and discuss current Seawall Parking Ordinance

Dennis Byrd Jr. stated that he believes it's an issue that the current Seawall parking is a \$1.00 an hour when the Seawall is the number one attraction for Galveston Island.

Susan Fennewald delved into the topic that the Seawall is one of the few parks that the Island can offer residents and it's charging the same price throughout the year. Dennis Byrd Jr. stated that he reviewed the Park Board data, and it seems that Galveston does not have an offseason so to speak any more.

Eddie Walsh inquired whether the Texas General Land Office can regulate what price the City charges to park on the Seawall.

6. Review and discuss modifications to Seawall Parking Ordinance

Eddie Walsh asked about the possibility of variable pricing throughout the year.

Susan Fennewald stated that she is in favor of charging a higher price during the summer, and not charging for parking in the winter.

Eddie Walsh asked if the current Pay-By-Phone app is able to be translated into other languages. Scott and Michael both provided explanations that the app can be translated, however the national call center does not provide Spanish speaking assistance.

The committee discussed the hours of paid parking on Seawall. Michael addressed the issues of enforcement if hours vary throughout the year based on season, or special events.

The committee unanimously came to a complete agreement that the paid parking hours will remain 10am-6pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The committee discussed the pricing of the annual parking pass.

7. Review and discuss Pay-By-Phone transactional data

The committee stated that more transactional data is needed as it pertains to Seawall Parking.

8. Discuss agenda items for next meeting

Items next meeting will include a review of the transactional data, reviewing the transactional costs, set the proposed hourly rate, set the proposed annual pass rate, and set proposed sunset provisions.

9. Set date and time of next meeting(s)

The next meeting will occur Thursday November 29th 4:00p.m.-5:30p.m. in Room 100 of City Hall.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28p.m.