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PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: City Councilor Mark Coen
City Councilor Fred Keach
City Councilor Allen Bennett
Main Street Concord representative Pam Peterson
Main Street Concord representative Jessica Eshleman
Parking Manager Dave Florence
Parking Clerk Pat Steward

ABSENT: City Councilor Robert Werner
Community Representative Jeff Bart
Chamber of Commerce Representative Mark Ciborowski
Concord Area Transit representative Jim Sudak

GUESTS: Traffic Engineer Rob Mack
Deputy City Manager Carlos Baia

1. West Congregational Church

The committee reviewed a letter from the West Congregational Church requesting an exception to restrict on-street overnight parking on Garrison Street. Councilor Coen concluded that the issue isn't overnight parking but rather parking during the day. Mr. Florence stated that more info is needed; he volunteered to contact the church regarding the usual snow ban procedure. Ms. Peterson moved to table the issue for three months pending receipt of more information; Councilor Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. State of NH project update, Railroad Street and Hills Avenue

Mr. Mack reported that according to information received today, the plan is staying as is and was approved by the Planning Board at the March 16, 2011 meeting. No parking spaces are impacted.

3. New Business

a. Councilor Coen recommended a visit from the Cale company to go over problems with the kiosks, especially cold weather issues. Mr. Florence said that he has volunteered to be a test site for the covers that go over the credit card slots. Discussion ensued regarding the time the kiosks take to process payment.

b. Ms. Eshleman reported that recently a downtown patron received a citation for parking over the line on a snowy day and inquired how that violation is typically given. Mr. Florence answered that the officer usually takes a photo and asked Ms. Eshleman to email the approximate date of the ticket to the Parking Control office.

c. Mr. Florence pointed out a letter from a local person dissatisfied with the new kiosk system. No action is required; the citizen just wanted it to be heard by the committee.

d. Thorndike Street

Councilor Bennett raised the question of parking on Thorndike as it is a very narrow street. Mr. Florence reported that the issue had previously been referred to the Traffic Ops Committee, which referred it back to the Parking Committee. The street is only 20 to 21 feet wide, and with eight feet allowed for parking, there isn't enough room for two cars to pass each other. The options are to remove parking entirely or change Thorndike to a one-way street. Councilor Bennett suggested speaking with St. John's church and the residents of the two houses on the street to see what they would prefer. He added that he has heard complaints that at times one car has to back down as far as Main Street to allow another to pass. The conclusion was to send to the Traffic Ops committee the consensus of the Parking Committee that Thorndike be made one-way.

Councilor Bennett moved to adjourn; Councilor Keach seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.