

Parking Authority minutes October 13, 2016 @0830 Hours

Present: Christopher Fusaro, Jessica Wilmot, Richard Moccia, Robert Murphy

Absent: Mark Seavy

Meeting called to order by C. Fusaro @ approx 0840 hrs.

Motion brought by Mr. Moccia that once an event parking policy is implemented that this information should be forwarded to parks and recreation. Seconded by Mr. Murphy, Ms. Wilmot and Mr. Fusaro. This will hopefully clarify the responsibilities of those entities that will hold events in Ballard Park and the downtown area going forward in 2017.

All members of the PA present are in agreement that the Town should NOT hire a parking director or manager as suggested in the study sponsored by the EDC. The Town does not need to expand payroll and grow the government to hire a parking manager since the 2 part time employees for parking enforcement are managed adequately by HR and an all volunteer PA, saving the town financial resources and personnel benefits during these economic downturns. The town's interests would be better served by expanding at least one of the part time parking enforcement officers to a full time position. The comparative basis used by the EDC sponsored study is not an accurate comparison reflecting the needs, demographics, type of enforcement employed and desired by the Town of Ridgefield. The current parking enforcement reflects the desire of the community, merchants and BOS and has proved to be appropriate and effective based on the current needs of the community.

The hiring of a parking manager would be an unnecessary exercise in the expansion of government and a use of taxpayer money that would be better applied to other venues to best serve the community.

The parking Authority will continue to function and work within its budgets while exercising restraint in expanding budgets only as needed to address actual needs that will benefit the Town going forward.

Mr. Moccia made a motion that the Town consider hiring an administrative assistant for HR to process parking and other departmental activities that are delegated to HR. The PA members present agree that this may be a wise choice for the Town to consider, but Mr. Fusaro noted that personnel requests for other divisions that are not under the direct control of the PA are best addressed by the BOS and our suggestion will be forwarded to the BOS via these minutes.

Mr. Moccia explained that in the course of his experience, that instead of the Town hiring a full or part time EDC director and committing to the additional costs and benefits involved in that decision, that there are other more viable alternatives to this choice. Mr. Moccia gave a brief overview of a pathway he offered to the EDC Task Force in which other communities were successful in creating a position of an EDC consultant that does not draw from the

Town payroll or benefits, but is compensated by a commission earned for the amount of the numerous federal grants that are available to local communities who need only apply for such grants. This method was viewed by the PA as very prudent alternative to growing the Town payroll and would perhaps be a more productive venue to consider. Mr. Fusaro noted that personnel requests for other divisions that are not under the direct control of the PA are best addressed by the BOS and our suggestion will be forwarded to the BOS via these minutes.

Discussion of re-appropriations and ideas for permit parking were started with the intention of culmination in some new proposals for the Town to be made available in 2017.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Moccia @ approx. 945am, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Fusaro  
Chairman  
Ridgfield Parking Authority