

**Town of Mansfield Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center and Meeting of the signatories of the COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT for Parking Enforcement in and adjacent to Storrs Center Development, Mansfield, CT**

**Special Meeting  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office  
23 Royce Circle**

**5:00 PM**

**DRAFT Minutes**

Members Present: Karla Fox (Chair), Manny Haidous, Dennis Stanavage, and Mike Taylor

Ex-Officio Members and Staff Present: John Carrington and Cynthia van Zelm

Guest: Matt Hart, Town Manager

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Karla Fox called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**2. Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2016**

Dennis Stanavage made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2016. Manny Haidous seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. Remarks from the Chair**

Ms. Fox said she attended the Town Council meeting where the Council discussed the change in charge and composition for the Parking Steering Committee.

Ms. Fox said there was some discussion about the distinction between Storrs Center and Downtown Storrs. Changes were made to cover the entire downtown (Downtown Storrs) as the Cooperative Agreement between property owners covers a geographic area larger than Storrs Center.

**4. Old Business**

○ **Committee Charge and Composition**

Cynthia van Zelm said the Town Council approved the proposed changes to the Committee's charge and composition as recommended by the Committee.

She said there will no longer be representation required from the Town Council, WRTD or the Town Manager. There is a slot proposed for a downtown business.

- **Enforcement and Time Limits**

Ms. van Zelm said the change in time limits from 30 minutes to 1 hour on certain areas of Storrs Road and Wilbur Cross Way has resulted in less concerns from visitors and businesses.

Matt Hart said there is interest in studying enforcement options further. What about installing pay on foot kiosks? It would make enforcement cleaner and result in less of a gray area for hearing officers. He said the idea of a pay on foot system has been discussed with some businesses and they expressed concern about it creating an extra burden for the user.

Mike Taylor said the Steering Committee had discussed this early on and expressed concern about meters. He said this could cause problems for his lot since the parking is “free” and more people would try and use it instead of using meters. Manny Haidous agreed that it is a more clean process but also agreed that it could push people to his lot and Mr. Taylor’s.

Ms. Fox said it could exchange one problem for another.

Mr. Taylor said he thinks the enforcement that LAZ Parking is doing for his lot has been successful in terms of the message of getting across that the lot is being enforced.

- **Communications Update (signage, etc.)**

Ms. van Zelm said three signs directing people to free parking in the parking garage have been put up near Wingstop, CVS and the oak tree on Paterson Square. She said the Town is waiting for approval from the State on directional signs to the garage to be put on the traffic light mastheads. Ms. van Zelm said two banners are also in the works to be placed on the Royce Circle and Dog Lane sides of the parking garage.

Mr. Stanavage suggested painted info on the roads to direct people to the parking garage.

Mr. Taylor said he would like to see how UConn can help with some of the parking problems downtown. John Carrington suggested that information about parking downtown be included in materials that UConn puts together for their open houses and orientation, and other special events.

Ms. Fox also suggested that the issue of UConn participation be brought to the Town/Gown Committee.

Mr. Hart suggested that people bring suggestions about UConn participation in downtown parking solutions to the January Parking Steering Committee and Ms. van Zelm can then relay them to UConn.

## **5. New Business**

- Review of Proposed revision to towing language in Town Ordinances and Regulations

Ms. van Zelm referred to a draft of revisions prepared by Town staff to Town ordinances 182 and A198 to remove language requiring that parking fines be paid prior to a towing company releasing a car that has been towed. Ms. van Zelm said it was determined that the local towing company would not enforce these provisions. Ms. Fox made a motion to recommend the changes to the Town Council. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **6. Next Meeting Dates for 2017**

Ms. van Zelm reviewed proposed meeting dates for 2017 of January 18, April 19, July 19 and November 15. She will send the dates to the Committee.

#### **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

*Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.*