

MINUTES
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
April 15, 2009

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Facility.

Members Present: Mr. Shannon White, Ms. Lisa Simmons, Mr. Ronald Dunbar, Mr. Michael Glenn, Mr. Donald Anderson, III, and Mr. Mike Hamer.

Staff Present: Mrs. Nancy Harrington, Transit Manager, Mrs. Geraldine Teel, Secretary and Mrs. Stacey Pigford, Civil Engineer I

Guest: Mr. Thom Moton, Assistant City Manager

WELCOME: Mr. Shannon White, Chairman, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda for the April 15, 2009, meeting was approved.

MINUTES: Mr. Michael Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Lisa Simmons. The motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Chairman White introduced Mr. Mike Hamer, the newest member of the Public Transportation and Parking Commission. Commission members welcomed him and introduced themselves to him.

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE: Mr. Thom Moton gave an update on the Intermodal Transportation Center. He stated that the Draft Environmental Assessment has been completed and is posted on the project website, www.great.com, with a copy at Public Works and at City Hall. He stated that two public comment meetings are scheduled for May 7, 2009. He noted that an additional public meeting will be held on May 14, 2009 during the City Council meeting. He stated that staff has initiated the process to rezone parcels that are not zoned as Downtown Commercial. The Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to hear the request in May and forward to City Council in June. Mr. Moton noted that the appraisals are underway and Casper Dozier Appraisals has committed to adhering to the time frame needed. He stated that staff is working to finalize the contract for Legal Services and to issue a Request for Proposals for appraisal review services as well. Mr. Moton encouraged everyone to visit the website for updates on the project. Mrs. Nancy Harrington gave an update on the grant fund for the project. She stated that grant funds for this project will be applied for during the upcoming grant application process once the Environmental Analysis is completed and approved. Mr. Moton noted that different entities will be asked to write letters of support relative to the project and the site. He also noted that it would be a good idea for the Public Transportation and Parking Commission to write a letter of support for the project site location.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments at this time.

FREE RIDE DAY-APRIL 18, 2009: Mrs. Nancy Harrington stated that Saturday, April 18, 2009 will be a free ride day for everyone. She noted that this is an annual event held in

conjunction with PirateFest and the International Festival. She stated that it was advertised on the City Page, GTV, posted on the buses and other general areas. She encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy a free ride and the festivities. Mrs. Harrington stated that the buses will be operating on the regular Saturday schedule.

BUS PASSES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES: Mrs. Nancy Harrington discussed a new program to supply bus passes for city employees. She noted this is another way to encourage transit ridership and reduce congestion as well. Mrs. Harrington has been working with City staff to promote bus ridership and to provide City employees with free transit passes. Mrs. Harrington stated that this is just a test for now to see how many employees will take advantage of it, if it's offered as one of the benefits through Human Resources. Mr. Shannon White recommended having a set number of trips per month or two rides per day to avoid abuse. Mrs. Harrington stated that it will be the City Manager's decision but that Public Works staff will provide input.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC LOT PARKING SPACES: Mrs. Stacey Pigford gave a brief update on the public lot parking spaces. She provided a spread sheet with all the public parking lots. She stated that the spread sheet showed all the 2 hour spaces available downtown which totaled 314. She noted that the Crepe Myrtle lot was sold on April 9, 2009 to Greenville Utilities. The Greene Street lot currently has seventeen (17) 2 hour spaces but will become all City employee and City vehicle parking. Mrs. Pigford noted that paving of the Greene Street lot should be completed by the summer. Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if a parking deck had been considered. Mr. Shannon White explained to Ms. Wyly, one of the newest members, that the suggestion has gone before the City Council a few times. He stated that there was some talk of placing one downtown but nothing developed. Mr. White noted there were forces for it and some against it. A discussion was held. Mrs. Harrington noted that this topic could be addressed again Mr. Wes Anderson is present.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF PARKING STUDY: Mrs. Nancy Harrington gave a brief update on the proposed parking study. She stated that she has talked with Mr. Carl Reese of the Community Development Department and he stated there is nothing on going at this time. He said that the goal was to have everything in place if new development occurs so that the City will be ready to begin the study. Mrs. Harrington noted that a member from the Public Transportation and Parking Commission will be on the Parking Study Steering Committee when the study begins. Mr. Michel Glenn volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO ORDINANCE CREATING THE COMMISSION: Mr. Wes Anderson not present due to other obligations. He will discuss at next meeting.

MARKETING REPORT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington gave a brief update on marketing. She stated that the Free Ride Day had been publicized on GTV, the City Page in the newspaper and on WOOW radio. In addition, GREAT advertisement continues to run on GTV.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington stated that regular GREAT ridership has increased significantly. She stated that several factors have contributed to the increase such as the economy, more student riders at Pitt Community College and the addition of a new route last fall. She noted that the expenses have also increased which is attributed to additional operational costs associated with the new route. Mrs. Harrington stated that the revenues have increased due to the higher ridership.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Commission members were treated to a ride on one of the GREAT buses after the regular meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission