

**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  
Friday, April 12, 2019  
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office  
23 Royce Circle  
10:30 AM**

**DRAFT Minutes**

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

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

Guest: Jill Krieger, Region 19 School District Superintendent; Stathis Manousos, Vice President Business Development and Regional Manager for LAZ Parking; Ed Pavliscsak, Superintendent for Storrs Associates; Jessie Richard, owner of The Flower Pot

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Karla Fox called the meeting to order at 10:35 am and introductions were made.

**2. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2019**

Mike Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2019. Manny Haidous seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. Remarks from the Chair**

Ms. Fox said she sees two separate issues to be addressed that are inter-related – the pay by cell concept which was the focus of the last meeting, and parking time limits.

**4. Old Business**

**Continued Discussion of Enforcement Strategies**

Derrick Kennedy said the initial conversation with the Parking Steering Committee in February was about the conceptual idea of a pay by cell system downtown. For this meeting, the parking staff team has come up with some ideas about what the pay by cell system might look like in Downtown Storrs.

Mr. Kennedy said no decisions have been made about a pay by cell system.

Cynthia van Zelm reviewed the draft parameters around a pay by cell system.

Mr. Kennedy said feedback from the Town Council was that they would like to see the ability to use cash.

Mr. Kennedy noted that he is not in favor of single use meters. He noted the cost of approximately \$200,000 for multi-space kiosks.

Mr. Kennedy and Stathis Manousos both agreed that it was a good idea to look at the entire parking system downtown (Town lots, E.O. Smith lots, private lots, etc.)/not just Storrs Center in isolation.

Ms. van Zelm said one of the issues she heard in talking to businesses was the concern about ticketing when there are not a lot of cars on the streets. John Carrington said parking enforcement needs to, however, be consistent, and LAZ Parking has to be allowed to maintain consistency.

Jessie Richard, owner of The Flower Pot, noted that the largest issue she sees is students (at all levels) taking spots for an extended period of time that are intended for customers. She noted that lunch is the busiest time.

Ms. Fox said she has heard from some people that 2 hours free parking is necessary for them to come downtown.

Mike Taylor suggested that parking be free on Saturdays, he said leniency during off times (summer, school breaks) should be considered, and paid parking may help businesses as it does give people the opportunity to add more time to their stay. Mr. Taylor said short term parking near grab and go businesses continues to be important so those spaces are not taken up by 2 hour parking.

Mr. Taylor said the situation in his lot has improved when it was closed off and the 6 spaces were designated for short term parking to prevent those parkers from taking other spaces in his lot.

Ms. Fox asked if a parking app can be set up by geographic areas and Mr. Manousos applied in the affirmative.

Mr. Manousos said he has been conducting some empty space counts and talking to businesses over the last week or so. As an example, there were 46 empty parking spaces on street at 1 pm, mainly on Storrs Road from Bolton Road Ext. to Charles Smith Way. Mr. Manousos said there is consistent available parking on Storrs Road. He said some merchants told him they would prefer longer than 30 minutes for their customers. Mr. Taylor suggested that LAZ review parking patterns in front of Dunkin Donuts on Storrs Road during the early AM and at lunch where he feels there will be more grab and go activity.

Mr. Manousos said the spaces in front of Price Chopper and the Town Hall on Storrs Road should be more activated. He suggested that they be programmed for longer term parkers.

Some Committee members and attendees expressed concern that if parking was all for 2 hours, students would monopolize those spaces.

Jill Krieger expressed the on-going issue of non-high school related parkers parking in their lot during off hours. There have been problems for parents and others attending events to find spaces.

Ms. Fox applauded LAZ for collecting data. Dennis Stanavage urged LAZ to conduct counts of the E.O. Smith High School lot on the weekends when others park there.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that the Committee meet again in the next month to review next steps.

## **5) New Business**

Committee membership

Ms. Richard is interested in serving on the Committee and is waiting for Town review of her application.

UConn employee travel patterns vis a vis construction

This item was deferred until a future meeting.

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

*Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm*