

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PARKING
(in the vicinity of high schools)**

February 4, 2008

Immediately following Comm. on Accounts

Chairman J. Roy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen J. Roy, DeVries, Ouellette

Messrs: B. Stanley

Chairman J. Roy addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Continuing discussions relating to parking in the vicinity of high schools.
 - a) Review of progress to date.

Chairman J. Roy stated I've read the report on the information gathering you've done up to this point, and I understand you're here for a couple more authorizations tonight. Is there anything that you need to add? I'm new to this Committee as is Alderman Ouellette.

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated I'll just give a brief summary if that's okay, of what we've done so far. If you start with a timeline, basically, what we've been doing up to this point is information gathering. Understanding what the student body looks like of each individual high school, auditing the parking both on campus and off campus. We've looked at where the problem areas are from enforcement points of view. We've looked at the busing service, exactly how it works, what the capacity of the buses is and how full they are. We've interviewed the school SRO's; we've interviewed the principals, we've interview the traffic director, all the people that deal with the high school parking situation on a day-to-day basis. So, we've pretty much completed compiling all of that information. What we want to do now, obviously, is get the input from the students which is where you have the survey from the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. They are ready to hand it out during homeroom, require that it be handed back to them the same day, and then also we need to get the public input of probably the parents and the residents in the area. After we've completed that,

we'll be able to compile all of the information and make a presentation to the Committee on what we can do for each individual high school that will make parking a little bit better. Following that, we wanted to have another public input session for each one of the high schools to see if there were any changes we needed to make to the programs. Then we'll come back to the Committee and make the final presentation and ask that everything go forward and the project be funded.

Chairman J. Roy stated one of the items I see on page 3-6 is: identify particular areas of trouble, and I see Conant and Walnut Streets. I think we'd agree that there are other streets that have significant problems. Is there a reason just those two are listed?

Ms. Stanley stated no, it was just an example.

Alderman Ouellette stated Brandy, I'm wondering, as a former Board member of the School District, what kind of communication has come from this Committee to the Board members in terms of information? Have we asked for their input as to what they would like to see in terms of parking or what their concerns are? I used to hear parking issues myself. I'm just wondering if we've reached out to those members of the School Board.

Ms. Stanley stated no, we haven't. But I would dearly love to do that, so with your permission, I'll be more than happy to try to schedule meetings with them or give them a phone call to see if they have any input.

Alderman Ouellette stated I'm also wondering if maybe minutes of these meetings might be helpful, to send the information to the Board members if that would be possible. Basically we've been put on this Committee because of our three wards and that would be the three people I'm talking about. I'm not talking about the entire School Board, per se. And if they want to share that information, I think that would be up to them. But I think they should kind of be kept in the loop as to the work this Committee is doing.

Alderman DeVries stated though I don't disagree that there certainly is going to be a need for involvement with the School Board members, I think there hasn't been outreach so far because we really haven't concluded that we're headed in any specific direction. We've just bantered about a lot of information and discussed how the issues vary between the three schools. I know around Memorial High School...I spoke early and I think we've spoken since about maybe instituting some sort of a residential parking program. I felt for Memorial High School that might be something that would work. I don't know if that would work in the other two neighborhoods. If we are going to be looking...and I don't know that we have

the information to know that we are looking to do anything that will change the actual school ground function. I thought it was going to become a little bit more that we might decide if we want to go in that direction after we have some of the survey results and some of the public input and that, in my mind, would be the appropriate time that we engage. If we decide that we have any inkling that we want to do anything on school grounds certainly it has to be done with School Board members' blessing for it to be successful, as well as the principals and hopefully the youth of the schools as well. But I think, just as a point of explanation, the reason you haven't seen any outreach yet to the schools was it was just premature. If you want to make them aware of the ongoing work of this Committee and give them past minutes so they can try to see that, I have no problem with that and it may be useful because they have a new Chair, because they may want to start joining us and giving us some information.

The Clerk stated Alderman Ouellette, the minutes to all those past meetings are right on the web so they can get those at any time.

Chairman J. Roy addressed part b of item 3 of the agenda:

- b) Presentation by MYAC of the proposed parking survey for all high school students.

Chairman J. Roy stated I believe we were supposed to have the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council here to present the survey. Unfortunately, they could not attend tonight. I want to take the opportunity to commend them for getting involved. I think it's great. Many times we can't get people to help and I think they're setting a great example even at their young age and I applaud their actions and I'm looking forward to meeting them at our next meeting and getting to work with them.

Chairman J. Roy addressed part c of item 3 of the agenda:

- c) Request for authorization to pass out the survey and begin compiling results.

Ms. Stanley stated I worked with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee and Marty Boldin to put this survey together, so I'm very familiar with the questions. We already know how we're going to do it and it can be done very quickly, so all we need at this point is this Committee's authorization to get it done.

Alderman DeVries moved to accept and authorize distribution of the survey. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette.

Alderman Ouellette stated Brandy, the Bedford students at West...I believe next year it's only going to be the senior class...obviously we don't need to have people who are not going to be at the school next year participate in the survey. Have you thought about probably not even including them since they're only going to be there one more year, the senior class, or are you going to include them? I think it would be helpful for them to identify that they are a Bedford student taking the survey so if we have an issue that may come up next year and it's going to be a one-year bubble we'll be able to see that information as well.

Ms. Stanley stated we can make that change to the survey for Memorial.

Alderman DeVries stated that's a very good catch, Alderman Ouellette, because all three of the schools have students that are coming in from surrounding communities, so knowing that the survey comes from one of those individuals would be helpful. We should probably just add a line and ask what town they live in...either what town they live in or are they a Manchester resident, yes or no, might get us the same.

Chairman J. Roy called for a vote on the motion to accept and authorize distribution. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman J. Roy addressed part d of item 3 of the agenda:

- d) Request for authorization to schedule a total of three (3) public input sessions, (one for each high school) designed for parents, residents, and other stakeholders.

On motion of Alderman Ouellette, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to authorize the three public input sessions.

Alderman Ouellette stated again, because Alderman Roy and I are new, are we looking at three separate nights for three separate high schools? Is that how we're planning on moving forward?

Ms. Stanley replied yes, given the character of parking around each individual high school, they're all very, very different schools with different parking issues. It didn't make much sense to try to hold one meeting for all three, so since all of the people who are going to be at the meeting need to be in attendance at all three,

myself and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, we did need to schedule them on three different nights.

Alderman Ouellette asked how are we planning on communicating that to the community?

Ms. Stanley stated we were planning on working with the City Clerk's Office. I know that we do have a list of property owners within a certain radius of each high school. We can notify the parents of the high schools through the school itself and then we can also notify the residents within a certain area around each high school and invite everyone to each individual meeting.

Alderman Ouellette asked so will we be updated with that information in terms of who will be invited around the neighborhood?

Ms. Stanley stated yes, I'd be more than happy to send that out.

On motion of Alderman Ouellette, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to approve the authorization requested.

Chairman J. Roy called for any new business.

Alderman Ouellette stated Brandy and I have had this meeting before, and I think I'll say it again, just for the record, that the concern that I have for the area that's called The Pit, if we plan to go ahead and develop that area, obviously we'd be looking to do something for more parking spots around the neighborhood. I just wanted to get that on the record, Mr. Chairman.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee