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**CITY OF HELENA**

**Parking Advisory Committee Agenda**

**September 11, 2025, 4:00 PM**

**Zoom Online Meeting; https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83709455998**

**(City-County Building, Room 226)**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

| **(16:02:00)** | Roll Call was taken, and the following all responded present:  (In person): Julia Gustafson, Christopher Facundo, Seth Brandenberger, Joan Taylor |
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|  | The following members were absent: Sandy Shull |
|  | Others present: Staff, David Knoepke, Christopher Couey |

**Announcements/Housekeeping**

| **(16:03:00)** |  | Review of agenda and board member announcements.  Chair Julia Gustafson shared a brief history of the Parking Advisory Committee and its role.  Seth Brandenberger shared a challenge that part-time permit holder experienced. |
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**Minutes**

| **(16:09:00)** |  | July 24, 2025, review of Meeting Minutes postponed to October. |
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**Public Comment on the agenda / General Public Comment**

| **(16:10:00)** |  | The following individuals made public comments. |
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| **(16:10:00)** |  | In-person Public Comment:  Bobby Lambertson provided the perspective of a downtown business owner and provide comment in opposition to proposed rate changes  Cameron Rig shared his perspective as a user of the 6th Ave Garage and gave recommendations on how to engage downtown businesses  Lonnie Kamna with Great Northern Town Center shared his support for increased rates and commented on the maintenance needs of parking Abigail Dolan of the BID shared comments on the kiosk instructions and noted that BID staff has been weeding downtown |
| **(16:22:00)** |  | Online Public Comment: None |

**Updates from City Staff**

| **(16:23:00)** | A | UpdateGrant Funding: MPO Transportation Alternatives & Tax Increment Finance - city staff did not include parking maintenance in either grant opportunity |
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| **(16:26:00)** | B | Parking Map Update and review. Draft map from last month reviewed for second time.  Discussion on the new Merchant parking validation program. |
| **(16:39:00)** | C | Update of Feedback from Commissioners about rates and parking budget. |
|  |  | Discussion on timeline and process to get meaningful public input. Committee members are in support of creating a new parking survey on Be Heard Helena. |
| **(17:10:00)** | D | Usage numbers on permits, paid hourly sessions, and tickets.  Review of on-street parking permits, only 16 part-time permits have been sold. The most popular permitted street is Cruise South, followed by Park Central.  Discussion on 6th Ave Garage and number of permits sold, a request for additional permits has been received that would put it over capacity. The goal is to save 10-20% of parking spaces for hourly users.  Update on maintenance projects and expenses this year. |

**Regular Items**

| **(17:30:00)** |  | Residential Parking Districts |
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| **(17:31:00)** |  | Review of non-compliant districts |
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| **(17:50:00)** |  | Staff recommendations regarding remedies and options  Discussion on value of residential permits vs enforcement costs.  The committee recommends that staff move forward with the dissolution process for noncompliant districts including notifying residents in noncompliant districts. |
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| **(17:52:00)** |  | Discussion on Process for changes to the City Code |

| **(17:54:00)** |  | Communications Strategy for Parking  Staff’s goal is to change the perspective on parking. |
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| **(17:58:00)** |  | Annual Report Recommendations (Standing Item)  Committee discussed draft items include:   1. Changes to Residential Districts 2. Recommendations on Rate Increases 3. Need for improvement in communications 4. Alternative revenue streams for parking |
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**Member Communications / Proposals for next Agenda**

| **(17:59:00)** | Review of items for October Agenda:  Draft of a new parking survey  Review finalized Map  Discuss next steps in the Annual Report Process |
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**Public Comment**

| **(00:00:00)** | Abigail Dolan of BID with suggestions for the parking map and ways to improve communications |
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**Adjournment**

| **(18:05:00)** | There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm |
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