



**CITY OF HELENA**  
**Parking Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**February 12, 2026, 4:00 PM**  
**Zoom Online Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88621317230>**  
**City-County Building, Room 226**

**1. Call to order (00:50)**

**2. Roll Call (00:00)**

Seth Brandenberger has agreed to be interim chair  
Roll Call taken and following responded:  
Present (in person): Brandenberger, Shull, Taylor  
Absent: Facundo

Others Present: Staff David Knoepke, Christopher Couey  
Aylsia Ryan BID, Cindy Burgess Park Ave/Civic Center resident

**3. Announcements/Housekeeping (09:30)**

Brandenberger noted that Great Falls increased their hourly rates to \$1.50 a hour. Seth said the BID has a goal to put together a social media campaign for the public about rates and changes downtown. It was noted that PAC has already voted and forwarded the rate increase recommendation, the commission has not voted or approved it. We will review this at the next meeting and Shull asked if we could explore a low income resident permit.

Couey would like to present the budget to the PAC before the staff takes it to the commission.

**4. Minutes (03:12)**

- a. December 11, 2025 – Taylor made a motion to approve the Dec. 11, 2026 minutes. Shull seconded. Brandenberger called for the vote.  
Votes as followed: Brandenberger – Aye, Shull – Aye, Taylor – Aye  
Motion carried 3:0

**5. Public Comment not on the Agenda (03:22)**

- a. Cindy Burgess she had gotten tickets for not having a residential permit while visiting a friend and also for parking on the wrong direction. Taylor
- b. reminded her that those where the rules and Couey add that the rules and district were there before the kiosks.

**6. Updates from City Staff (17:20)**

- a. Conversation about employee part-time permit 4 hour permit am, mid day, pm. Need to see if Passport has options to see when the part-time permits would start. Has to be in a block time



- b. Parking Map Update (26:03)
  - i. No improvement. The Chamber will work on it and Couey will hopefully bring us a map in March.
- c. Residential District Letters Update (28:01)
  - i. Letters have been sent. Couey would like to combine Civic Center and Park district at March meeting. Needs in the residential have changed. Taylor questions the value of a residential district since most of the problems seem to be after 5pm with Blue Cross is no longer downtown.
- d. Usage Numbers (54:00) (permits, paid hourly sessions, tickets)  
Let's look at the numbers with the new rates will it help with the debts. Couey will give us rates for analysis at the March meeting. The Chamber Parking lot will need to be address. They up the number of permits on 6<sup>th</sup> ave garage will be oversold. Total available spots don't include handicap spots.  
Couey gave mid-year budget numbers. .pay to park \$45-50,000 a month Budget seems to be close to the budget. TIFF money grant request is being worked on. Hope to get the application submitted in next couple of weeks.

**7. Regular Item (1:08:00)**

- a. Election of Committee Chair: postpone to next month
- b. Committee Priorities: need to discuss what we want as a work session
- c. Survey Results Discussion
- d. Inventory review – garages, surface lots, and on-street (facility numbers, residential downtown parking, city vehicles, overselling to be incorporated and potential free parking area discussion)
- e. 15<sup>th</sup> Parking Garage Agreement Discussion
- f. Annual report Recommendations (standing item)

**8. Next Agenda Proposal (01:10:08)**

- a. Proposed upcoming meeting items
- b. Lots for discussion of regarding a 2-hour work session in the future to help PAC determine the goals and priorities. Decided to schedule it March 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm then regular meeting 4-6pm to discuss budget. Couey will be out of town on the March 12<sup>th</sup>. He will have budget info ready for our work session.

**9. Adjournment (01:53:44)**