

COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

AUGUST 28, 2019

A meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Chair, presided.

Members of Infrastructure Committee present: Alderman Tom Lopez, Vice Chair
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Ken Gidge

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Ernest A. Jette

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Shoshanna Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman O'Brien

I am going to open up at this time for public comment if anybody has any comment they would like to bring up to the Board just give me a signal as per our custom. Please state your name and your address and then you can give us your remarks.

Milton Moran, Jr. Hi everyone, Milton Moran Junior, 30 Dickerman Street, Nashua. I am here to actually support the Youth Advisory Committee's petition for this ordinance. I think it is a great thing for the City to give the students an opportunity to have free parking at the library. The library was initially created for free public service to the community and this is a great step in the direction to give the kids back an opportunity to utilize the library without facing a tax to use it. Hopefully just something in the future that eliminates all the parking fees at the library. And just thinking of the presentation that these guys posted shows such responsibility to our community to come here and be so invested in such responsibilities to their other classmates. Very impressed by it, thank you.

Marylou Blaisdell Good evening, Marylou Blaisdell, 32 Webster Street, Nashua, New Hampshire. I am here speaking on behalf of the Downtown Improvement Committee. We have not had the opportunity to see or hear this presentation but we are aware of the Ordinance in front of you. Our Committee did discuss it at length at our last meeting on August 9th. It is the Committee's unanimous opinion at this point in time that we do not go forward with this and I will tell you why. Parking downtown is an issue at all times for a variety of different people in a variety of different areas. We have talked with the head of parking and with the Economic Development Office regarding the parking situation downtown and where we might need to tweak it. The head of parking Jill along with Tim Cummings are preparing an RFP to go out for us to undertake a complete parking study of downtown.

This parking study will allow us to look at all parking downtown, what we need to do to improve it, where we may need to reduce parking fees, where we may need to increase parking fees. Part of this study will include the library parking lot so we may, at some point in time, need to look at the lot and say, "X amounts of spots in that lot would be free at all times, for anybody". It would be our hope that your Committee and the Board of Aldermen would recommend holding off on any implementation of any parking changes until that parking study is complete.

We find that it is very difficult to make a change and then have a study done and then have to undo the change or tweak the change. This parking study will go into effect as soon as the RFP is approved, and a company is hired to do it. So it is going to happen very soon and it would be our unanimous opinion for the best of downtown and the citizens to get a complete study before any changes are made. Thank you. But I would also like to commend you guys for what you are going to present and your activity in this; I think it is great.

Chairman O'Brien

I see we did have somebody come in late, we are at Public Comment if anybody else would like to come up and address the committee.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Marylou Blaisdell, Chair, on Behalf of the Downtown Improvement Committee
Re: O-19-051 Providing Free Library Parking for Up to Three Hours for Nashua Students Using the Nashua Public Library

- Referred to Cmte – 8/13/2019

There being no objection, Chairman O'Brien accepted the communication and placed it on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

Chairman O'Brien

New Business Ordinances; at this time I am going to advise the Clerk since we do have people here that did bring before us a presentation, I am going to go out of order and I will call to order O-19-050 if the Clerk could read that please, no excuse me, I've got the wrong one – O-10-051.

O-19-051

Endorser: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Jan Schmidt

PROVIDING FREE LIBRARY PARKING FOR UP TO THREE HOURS FOR NASHUA STUDENTS USING THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chairman O'Brien

At this time I would like to request our presenters and Mr. Cummings if you want to come up and sit with us and enjoy the presentation.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. If I could just give a quick intro.

Chairman O'Brien

And also too please introduce our guests as well.

Alderwoman Kelly

I will, I will. So I had an opportunity this summer, I had a lot of excited young people who were interested in getting involved at the City Level. I talked to the Mayor and the Mayor's Office and I put together a small, informal group of kids; they have been coming every single week. Our initial brainstorm we kind of came up with what are some of the ideas that would make Nashua better for you? What would keep you coming back? We had a number of college students who are unfortunately unable to be here because they are all back at school now. But they came in earnest and did the work all summer long.

This idea was something that was borne from them, something that they talked about and I have been talking to this group of students and quite a few since I ran for office. The Library has come up multiple times in terms of being or wanting to access it; making it easier for all of our students to come downtown. They will go through all of this but you know one of the things that they said is "oftentimes we go to Starbucks or we go to Barnes & Noble because it is easier for us to just go there and it is free parking". And through our conversations and conversation with Jen, we did talk to Tim Cummings as well as Jill; we just wanted to underline that those resources are there for students. If we were going to enter into anything in terms of library parking the students really felt like it was the absolute starting point for this. So I am going to introduce them and let them walk you through. One other note, public comment, I appreciate the comments from Marylou. When they talked about this they had not had the ability to hear this presentation from us so I am hoping that they will get a little bit out of it tonight as well. So we have George you can introduce yourself go ahead.

George (Student) Hello I am George and I am a Senior at Nashua South.

Alderwoman Kelly

This is Osma.

Osma (Student) I am Osma, I am a junior at Nashua High South.

Steven (Student) And I am Steven and I am a junior at Nashua North.

Chairman O'Brien

I'm glad to see Nashua is represented at least, ok very good. Welcome all.

Alderwoman Kelly

So I am going to be quiet now.

Unidentified Student This is the Parking Ordinance for free parking for students in Nashua at the Nashua Public Library.

Unidentified Student So we first started discussing this while we were at one of our meetings and the Library Parking was actually broken so on social media we had a bunch of people talking how it is so easy to go to the library. They kind of discussed how they would be more apt to go and use the Library resources if the parking was free. So then we approached this from the perspective of students where we thought none of our friends, none of our fellow students really use the Library resources. They would rather go to Barnes & Noble or Starbucks where there is free parking. The goal of this is trying to remove a barrier and get students to try to use Library resources more.

Osma So this would be for high school students who go to North, South, BG and any other high schools and college students which include Rivier and Nashua Community College and any students that are eligible for a library card. So that means that they live, work or study in Nashua.

Unidentified Student So the first reason why we thought that this would be a good idea is to remove a potential financial barrier. Also it ensures that the Library resources that the City is already paying for are accessible to all students. This will enhance that student's educational experience. And finally it encourages students to come downtown. I know a lot of the students, a lot of my friends will go to Barnes & Noble, free parking there; we will study for a good amount of time. But if there was free parking at the Nashua Public Library there would definitely be a lot more students that would go there.

Osma And also personally, studying at home is like sometimes distracting to me because I have a younger brother. He watches cartoons and like is pretty loud and I really need to focus. If I go to Barnes & Noble there is also distractions there. But it is free parking so I go there. But if the Library had free parking people are obligated to be quiet in the Library so it would be easier for me to study there. I am sure lots of students agree with me because studying is very important during junior year and throughout high school because like it is a path for our future.

Unidentified Student So finally is this implementation. So there will be a system of laminated passes, there will be about up to 20 of them and there will be a 3 hour limit to that one visit. What will happen is when a student arrives to the library, they will present their student ID and that will be held as collateral so that when they grab that pass and they bring it back and they finish their amount of time in the Library; when they bring back that laminated pass they will at that point get their student ID back.

Alderwoman Kelly

Just so the Committee knows, this was something that we did chat through quite a bit in terms of what is the best way to do it; what is the lowest barrier of not having people abuse it. We had talked about like do we issue passes but then we did discuss in length "well what if I give it to my mom and my mom uses it". So we felt like this way, even though it is a clunky, they've got to go get the pass and put it in their car, it would really cut down on people abusing this privilege.

Unidentified Student So we also analyzed the financial aspect of this. Considering that the spots won't be used 100% of the time and we are only taking a 4th of the 80 non-handicapped spots, the financial impact is minimal. And I'd also like to talk about even if it might create a little extra paperwork when we go and create a proposal and look at parking in the future, if we could help kids have access to resources within the library, I think it can be worth just a small amount of extra work.

Alderman Lopez

Great presentation. Did you guys speak to the library itself about this?

Unidentified Student Yes, we talked with Jen, she sat in on a couple of our meetings.

Alderwoman Kelly

She's here tonight. I can answer that as well. Yes so we did have some discussions with Jen and we talked to her about implementation with her staff and making sure that this wouldn't be an undue burden to them. I don't want to speak for her but she was very happy to entertain the idea of allowing kids to get connection to those resources. I know the basement has had a complete transformation and there is kind of great space down there that is underutilized now that we don't have a video catalog of hundreds and hundreds of videos.

Alderman Lopez

Well just to clarify, I was at Nashua Goes Back to School and I asked several library staff and they were unanimously in support of it. I just wanted to see if you had the opportunity to express that you had actually communicated the process and what you were looking for with the library staff.

Chairman O'Brien

Any other questions?

Alderman Lopez

Everybody getting good grades over here?

Alderwoman Kelly

They are go getters.

Chairman O'Brien

I do have a question. You did a wonderful presentation and you are bringing up something that I think we definitely need to take a look at. That being said, here comes the other side of the shoe that is going to drop. In the letter that we did receive by Ms. Blaisdell who is the Chair of the Downtown Improvement Committee; and in her letter it did stipulate and in quoting the letter "if we decide to provide free parking for one demographic" – meaning the student parking "we must also consider requests from others". And she gave the examples of senior citizens, mothers with children to name a few. Being the State Rep, we did have a bill that came before us where one person wanted to name a pregnancy as being debilitating and to have access to handicap parking and that bill didn't get through. But in looking at that, where do you weigh the balance for us into looking at the students and mothers with children who are sometimes difficult to move, or senior citizens. Where do they fit into your plan should they equally have a benefit for other parking or access?

Unidentified Student So the fundamental goal, the primary goal of this thing is to enhance educational experience, that's the primary goal. And so this Ordinance was just one of the ways that we can reach that end. As far as other demographics that is a separate issue. I am sure those can be handled on a case-by-case basis. But enhancing student's access to educational resources was our primary motivation for this Ordinance.

Alderwoman Kelly

I would just echo that. I think our initial goal in sitting down the very first time was what can we do for students in Nashua and how can we make them feel more connected to the community. And when we started we were unaware of the fact that there was an RFP going on. I know there's been a ton of work on parking downtown. I appreciate all of that and I appreciate all of the knowledge and experience that the Downtown Improvement Committee brings to this. I just think that personally I would like to see Library Parking Free. That's a totally different conversation for everybody. But I think if you are going to make an argument for anyone, students absolutely make the most sense to start and I think if you are going to do a study anyways, this might be really good fodder as they are doing the study. We are talking about 10 to 20 passes and we left that flexible so that we could talk to you guys and see how you were feeling about it.

Alderman Lopez

I dislike the rabbit hole that "what if we do something for one group; then don't we have to do it for everybody" because as legislators our job is specifically to look at the needs of the community. So if constituents in the community come forward with a need and are particularly able to present that need as effectively as I see here, I am inclined to take that as a presentation of need. So I personally I dislike hearing the question, "what if we have to do this for more people? What if other people ask"? Because we should answer those questions too and we should be willing to take those on case-by-case. However, I would also point out elderly people are students and single mothers are students. The Rivier Program has a RISE program, it has plenty of non-traditional students. If those particular students live closer to downtown and could benefit from access to the library without an economic barrier and may or may not have to take the bus to Rivier and use their library?

I mean I am not opposed to them using our Public Library as well. There is still a finite cap on how many people can do it; and that means multiple populations are being served. I also have worked with any number of single mothers who go to Nashua Community College and are struggling with raising children and going to school and having an effective place to study and do their work. I happen to know that the Library is an ideal location for them because there are story hours, there is a children's room where parents can be working but their kids are in a safe environment where they can be learning and manipulating child friendly materials. There is even arts & crafts and that kind of stuff. So I think this is not going to exclude any group and it is not going to prevent us from answering those questions which we are supposed to. I think there are a lot of different people who are students and we need to move away from the traditional perspective that students are only younger people.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you for coming and presenting tonight. So I came at this and I am not on the Committee so I won't be voting this evening; I will obviously get the opportunity to vote on it when it comes to the Full Board. But I am going to share some thoughts and my opinion. So in my estimation and my point of view there is very few things in life that come for free. Everything has a cost to it. And in particular when it comes to students, I mean even at Nashua High you have to pay to park if you are a student. You have to pay to park if you are a student at Rivier. I don't know if the Community College makes you buy a sticker or not. And you know it was no different when I was at Nashua High School. You know in fact I think the prices were pretty similar to what they were back then but my point being that when you have a car, you have a responsibility to follow the rules and regulations of the road. And if you park in a spot that requires a fee to be paid, then you should pay the fee. The reason that the fee is there at the library is so that the turnover rate doesn't you know, basically so somebody doesn't come down there and park all day. Now I realize that the idea here is that there is a 3-hour limit; it is supposed to be controlled and I get that. I just don't agree with the premise that a student would choose to go to Barnes & Noble or another place simply because those places have free parking. And if that is the case then I would say to those students that is worth the money to go the Library because the educational resources there are far more valuable.

The other thing that crosses my mind is that we have to take a step back and assess what the best needs are for the entire community. I think this point was brought up in the letter from Chairman Marylou Blaisdell. What I mean by that is that there might be a way that we can somehow do a controlled access parking to the library where there are a number of spaces that are free if we truly desire it as a community to do free parking there. We could do it for everybody. So the idea that we should take one group and put their needs above another, I don't particularly like. What I would rather see is this Committee hold this and wait for the parking study to be done and then see if through that study there is a way we can make library parking free for everyone. Because if that is something that we value in this community, then we should value it not only for students, but we should value it for everyone. So I would hope that we use this as a catalyst to say "how can we provide free parking for all on an equal basis". And I think that is something that the library director has been wanting for a long time. But again the consequences of doing such a thing are that you are going to have people who are going to go down there and park all day long. So there would have to be some kind of controlled access. But I would rather see it done on an equal basis as opposed to a singular group.

Alderman Lopez

Well first I want to say I believe that yes students go to Barnes & Noble and you came here to tell us that because you know it to be the case not because you are making it up. I have seen plenty of students at Barnes & Noble and I know that it is a pretty popular hang out spot in terms of it being commercially marketed and that's why the parking is free. Because then you can pay for your drinks and you can pay for your music and you can be subjected to all kinds of advertisement. But I also think that given that location and given that popularity it is restrictive. I think looking at people in terms of their actual need and addressing that need when we are able to as Aldermen is our responsibility. I mean I've had experience with constituents coming forward and presenting a need and very clearly saying "This is what we need, we have data, we have support, we've put a lot of work into this". And then tabling it and then having more discussion and then politics take over.

I don't think we need to get quite that deep into this. I think we are talking about parking passes and I think we have a straightforward call to action right now and right here. If we really want to help people access free parking, we shouldn't start by not letting the first group of people that ask for it and have an organized presentation and a workable plan and the support of the library staff, not letting them do that. I don't know that I would have approached this from a Downtown Improvement Committee perspective in the first place. I don't like the implication that they are now in charge of parking. They haven't seen this presentation; I'm not sure whether they had the opportunity to see it or not and I'm not really sure what the discussion was had because when I went to go look for the minutes today I couldn't find them. When I went to ask if any minutes existed, I was given a draft which did not actually cover the discussion it covered another issue. This letter is twice the size of the minutes that is in draft form right now. The formal minutes of the Downtown Improvement Committee, apparently there wasn't time to do that.

So I don't know exactly what discussion took place, because that's not public information. What I do know is that these students took the time to present a very straight forward and simple idea and it is my impression that we are over complicating it because a group that did not see the presentation may have had access to the ordinance because that was posted a while ago and may have had a substantive discussion about it wants us to wait for a parking study of the whole downtown area. I think that is not necessarily an authority that is given to them. If they want to fund the study then more power to them. But I think ultimately the responsibility for deciding where parking is and how much it costs is a function of the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Klee

Yes thank you and thank you for a great presentation. I actually didn't have a question so much about the presentation as the issues of multiple group needs and so on. If we did set aside, say we did pass this and we set aside 20 spots and so on I guess I have two questions. One is how do we know that it would only be 3 hours as it said? But before you answer that my next question is, if other groups did come forward, whether it be seniors, pregnant mothers, mothers with toddlers or fathers with toddlers and so on, would we be able to grant them the use of those 20 and do the same kind of passes? That's what I am saying and I think that if we do this that yes we should go forward and allow that for anyone who shows the needs of whatever the group is and so on. And only because if we set these 20 aside are we not going to let anybody park there or is just going to be 20 passes so they park wherever they want to park so it's just with the 20 passes? So if the library had 20 passes and a mother with toddlers comes in, she will say can you hold my kid so I can run back out to put the pass on my car and so on. So that's kind of what my question is and Alderman Kelly if you know or if they would know about the 3 hour rule, how do we know that they will stick to 3 hours?

Chairman O'Brien

And I think that was a question through the Chair to Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Klee

I apologize, yes, I apologize Chairman.

Alderwoman Kelly

So the idea was that there would be a binder and you'd sign in when you get there, you would like a business card plastic thing where your card goes and then the pass goes and the card comes back. So we would keep track of that. I don't think it is going to be like someone is there for 12 hours and we need to go finding them in the library, I can't imagine sitting longer than 3 hours without losing my mind. But it has been awhile since I've been high school and college. So I think that's how we have talked about it. So it would be a pretty simple system of paper, sign in, sign out. You don't get your ID back which is pretty good collateral when you are a student unless you pass back the pass. And like we said the 20 was up to 20, so if we are feeling like we want to explore it and start with only 10 we are open to that. I think it would be a good project to see how it works.

Are all 10 being used a lot on the weekends and we feel like it is really getting the use that we are hoping to get out of it. We can use that for fodder for other constituent groups, because I have heard that, I've heard moms say, I go to story hour and I have to rush out because my meter expired and I was pretty clear that I agree. The library staff feels the same way and there shouldn't be a socio-economic barrier to using the library. Those resources are there for free for a reason and if we put a barrier in for people it really can affect whether or not they are able to use it.

Alderman Klee

I guess my next question would be if we open this up to all students high school students, Rivier students and so on where they have ID's, what about those students that, Pennichuch, Middlesex School that don't have an ID or any of those other kinds of... when I was going to middle school I used the library constantly. It was right next to my school and I used it all the time, if nothing else to take out books sometimes to read there, because my home was a little chaotic so I would sit there and I would read. And sometimes I would study and so on, but a lot of the younger kids below high school do not have ID's so how would they, but their parents drive and bring them there. So you are saying if a high school student doesn't drive and their parents bring them there, mom and dad are doing something, they wouldn't be able to use the spot? I apologize I went off.

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you Mr. Chair. I am so grateful that an RFP is going to be done on this because I think this is long overdue,. As the Alderman from Ward 1 this is an issue I get a lot of; parking downtown is crazy and we need some help. I have questions is the parking area always full? Are there lots of spaces empty? That's just the first one. Will there be a specific area that the cars would use? And why can't we consider this a pilot program to see what it looks like to bring forward anybody else that is going to request passes or free parking? This would be a good opportunity to gather some information that we might not have otherwise.

Chairman O'Brien

On that regard if the Aldermen can timely wait, I am holding them off at this particular point until all the Aldermen express their opinions. But I am going to refer and some of those questions may be able to be answered by Director Cummings at the appropriate time. So those are good questions and may be directed to him.

Alderman Gidge

Thanks you, congratulations, I'm glad you came in, this is what I like to see, I like to see people you know involved. I have a different opinion, I never paid to go to a library, in fact, anyone who goes to a library maybe we are going to pay them 25 cents. Libraries have changed as you probably know; they are more of areas for people to meet. I think the problem is that downtown if Starbucks and the Library could get together and work something out, guess what? The Library probably parking could be paid for by Starbucks, the place would be filled. I am trying to show a little bit of humor here but there is truth behind this. The library parking lot doesn't make that much money, what do we want? Do we want people in the library, we don't them in the library? Is the money that important? If you are going to a library why are you paying for a parking lot, no I understand why etc. But don't we want people there and I think that's your, hopefully that is your argument. I do appreciate you coming in. To some people this may seem like a very small thing; it is not a small thing. We want people to come downtown and this is one way to do it. Thank you very much, I'm sorry if I have confused things.

Chairman O'Brien

At this time just to retro back to the gentleman's comments, Alderman Lopez, making sure there is parking and for senior citizens and everybody. Not necessarily a rabbit hole, I don't go down rabbit holes because I can't fit, the wife has got me on a diet. Come see me in another 6 months and maybe I might be able to do it but

really not. The thing is I think when we make this type of change we have to look at the global and really peel it back and look at the whole particular thing. I think you have brought up a very good point, you have identified what to me is an obvious problem. Except here is you brought a solution to your particular part of the problem and not the global looking at it. And since there is other issues with the parking in that vicinity, I am now going to turn to Director Cummings to explain the RFP and to see the RFP; I don't know if you are familiar with it to explain it. And to come up with what it will do for us and then to see if this RFP and what we are going to be looking at may satisfy why you are here this evening. So Director Cummings if you would.

Alderwoman Kelly

If you wouldn't mind, I just didn't want to forget Jan's questions and I wanted to answer before we go into the RFP. So I believe, I didn't have a pen, so you had asked there are 84 spots, 4 of which are handicapped. The lot makes \$27,211.00 a year. It is never full and like we had pointed out, we don't expect these passes to be out at 100% all of the time and it wouldn't be specific spots; parking enforcement would look for that pass and if they see the pass they wouldn't ticket them. There was one other comment about people parking there all day, well if they don't have a pass they would get a ticket just like any other place in the City. Did I answer all of them? Oh the other question was could this be a pilot, I think it absolutely could.

Chairman O'Brien

Director Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Thank you Mr. Chair, Tim Cummings Director of Economic Development and for better or for worse parking falls under my office's purview. So I am here this evening and first I am going to start my comments by saying I applaud the students that are here this evening for getting civically engaged. I was recently at town meeting last fall and I saw a bunch of students present on why it was good for plastic bags to be banned and that was an amazing presentation. Unfortunately they weren't very successful in convincing that body in the wisdom of their logic. But it was really great to see students wanting to get engaged in the public policy process and it was through that engagement that they learned about all the nuanced details that goes into making these regulations that govern us.

I am here to say that I don't support this Ordinance, it is not something that I can recommend to this body at this time. There are a few reasons for that; first and foremost, good urban principals tell us that paying for parking is what we should be doing. Parking is not free as mentioned; Barnes & Noble Parking Lot although you are not paying for it, you are indirectly by going to the facility and that cost is just spread out differently. And so we just unfortunately or fortunately depending on your perspective shift the cost of parking directly on to the consumer, whereas it is bundled in other type of retail environments. And so oftentimes it gets lost on us or it is a misnomer to think that we are actually not paying for that parking. So anyway that is one point that I wanted to make this evening, so I would caution you if you start to go down this path, I want to make it abundantly clear that you are opening the door for other groups to come before you. We hear it often in our office, all different types of demographics, from seniors to low to moderate income individuals, to veterans, whatever the case may be it is demographic groups rightly so believe that they should have free parking at the library in the downtown. I just need this body to be aware of if they value this at a certain way and the community wants to do this, that's your prerogative and your pleasure that you will be seeing other groups coming before you. I caution you just to treat everyone equitably.

A few months back I was before you and I had made some recommendations relative to how to tweak the parking, particularly where I felt the parking was not, we weren't charging enough parking and we weren't you know meeting market standards. It was made abundantly clear to me and the message was very large that a parking study needed to be done, not just on the deferred capital maintenance necessary in the area but also in best practices in parking management.

So I took those comments to heart and I have a request in the escrows for that initiative to be funded. If it is funded successfully by this body, we have an RFP drafted that would be issued where we would procure a professional, third party consultant vendor, to come in, draft a plan that would be community based. It would come from the community but it would also provide recommendations on industry standards, best practices and what is comparable for like-type communities that offer similar type of parking situation or environment. So absent that type of data and absent that type of direction I think that this body could be making a mistake and I just want to caution you if that is the case I want to just do my due diligence and do my duty by pointing that out to you.

I would also suggest and this is the last comment I will make on this is I hear oftentimes about people never like to pay their taxes and if we didn't have you know a certain property tax, that maybe we would attract that business into the community and rightfully so. But there is enough data done, enough survey research that tells us that people do not make their decisions based on cost alone on what it is going to be. They freely pay that cost because they like the services that they get or they like the environment that they are in. Similarly with this scenario here, I would suggest to you that if the library entered into a licensing agreement with Starbucks, people would be willing to come to the library and use the library and not even think about paying for the parking because I assure you they are going to be paying more for that latte than they actually do for the parking. So it's not necessarily driven by the cost of parking although I am sure it is one factor that is actually going to drive people to that experience. That is ultimately what you are going for as a consumer, is what is the experience you are going to receive when you go someplace and spend your dollars; whether it is Starbucks, whether it is Barnes & Noble, whether it is the Mall, whether it is the library, wherever it may be. And so if we could think about it in terms of the consumer experience and what we can do to drive value to the library's benefit and to the residents of Nashua, I would suggest that would be a better approach.

Finally, the last comment I know I just said that but second-to-last comment that I just made is relative to some of the very specific issues and to the Resolution. The way the Resolution is written and again I have no problems with the Resolution if that is how the body wants to proceed but I just want to make you aware of the fact that as written it would be open to all high schools, all colleges, not just Nashua so just want to make that clear. And that's fine if we want to do that but that's just the way the text is written, it is not written as a pilot program, it would be permanently adopted so I just want to make sure folks understand that. And then lastly relative to enforcement, I don't think the enforcing capabilities will be like what some people may think because we don't have the ability to go into the library, check the library to see if somebody is staying for 3 hours and that 3 hour allotment time. What they might do is look at the placard, chalk is the term that they use and they would just have to make sure that that person is in a reasonable period of time staying there. That's the best type of enforcement that you are going to get so I suggest to you that it really wouldn't be enforced all that much. But that may be OK I just want to make sure folks know that.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Cummings, I do have a question. If we did delay this and refer it to wait until the RFP comes out, will we have to wait until the whole general study is done or can you prioritize neighborhoods or objectives in the particular study? I mean could this be advanced in such a way as to satisfy this or should it wait until the end of the complete study?

Mr. Cummings

I would recommend to you that you wait until the end, you get the entire report and then it will be this body that decides as to which policies you want to adopt moving forward. Whether you prioritize and if it is very clear that this is the first issue that you would want to tackle, then once that report is done we could absolutely make that a priority.

Chairman O'Brien

Ok we have Alderman Kelly and then Alderman Lopez in the queue.

Alderwoman Kelly

May I defer?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes you may defer.

Alderwoman Kelly

Some of the students may like to speak. Osma go ahead.

Osma OK so as you said ...

Chairman O'Brien

Could you give your name because when it gets transcribed they kind of recognize our voices because we've been here a lot.

Osma My name is Osma. So as you said that we pay for coffee and stuff like that from Starbucks. It is only because we go there and we see and it is tempting to buy coffee. But maybe if we were downtown before we go to the library we could grab something to eat from a downtown store like JaJa Belles or something like that. Because when I like drive through downtown I feel like going to these places and stuff. I never really tried it out but I feel like before like if we are going to downtown to study we could, me and my friends could go to JaJa Belle's and get coffee or something, eat and then go to study.

Mr. Cummings

So if I may, that is the exact abuse that I can tell you that people don't want to have occur. So if you actually do that, that is going to send a message to the community that will be a slippery slope and that is the biggest reason why and again for the record, Director Tim Cummings, we do not want to encourage this type of behavior. Because it will be a Pandora's Box as to what will happen. If they community should have a better strategic approach about the holistic way about going about this. If you don't want to have paid parking, fine. I'm totally fine with that. But when you start making these special exceptions, it is going to be very hard to police.

Alderman Lopez

So first I would like to just point out that I believe that what was being referred to in terms of shopping downtown wasn't misusing the pass and going into the library, getting the pass, using it for free parking and then going shopping. I believe I just heard her say she might go get something and bring it to the library. So there was not a plan to commit fraud. Second, while I understand the Economic Development Director's perspective is economic I don't look at library participants as consumers. I look at them as constituents because they are paying taxes, they are part of our City. This is like trying to charge people for the Fire Department. I think the Library is an essential public service, it contributes to the further education of our citizens. It is very important that we have a general repository of knowledge and I think it is equally important that our students have that access to it.

I think it is very easy to forget that not everybody is in the same income bracket. Some people can't afford a latte, they might have to buy something or do something if they go into a school or a restaurant such as Barnes & Noble Café in order to justify their being there and not being "Oh great it's a bunch of free students". But that doesn't mean that they are easily able to do that and that somebody would just gladly just purchase a latte in exchange for a parking space because if that were the case, we'd have plenty coffee shops and diners

downtown and people still don't like the parking. One of the most frequent comments that I get, not only from the people downtown that are shopping, but from the store owners is that they wish that parking was for a longer period of time or that it was easier to use the meters or the apps or whatever. Parking is difficult, it is recognized as a barrier and while I am glad that we are doing a study, I think my personal position which I voiced pretty clearly to the changes in the parking that were proposed previously was there was no purpose in raising the prices because we didn't have anything we needed to fund. So I didn't see a reason to increase in taxes on people as a crowd management mechanism just based on what other communities were doing. We had issues with doing that when the focus was just to raise the prices and we didn't actually consider the context of some of the parking spaces were uncovered, some of them were covered and we were looking at the same raise just because the goal was to raise the prices.

So getting back to the library parking, I still support it, I think that having students come downtown is key. I think having students getting into the habit of coming downtown is very important as well; whether they are high school students or they are college students. Rivier has had a lot of students come and go over the years and not very many of them come downtown for anything other than maybe Beat the Clock Night or Trivia Peddlers or some kind of nighttime drinking thing. I think it would be nice to see students down during the day and participating in the shops when they are open during the day and seeing downtown that is a place that is accessible. I don't expect that every student downtown is going to misuse the library pass to do that. I think they might just drive down and become more familiar with the shops. They might drive down Main Street a little more often and see them and they might get more comfortable with the area because they have something to go to and then they might branch out from there.

So I kind of see this is as a beneficial economic impact as well. But I also see the wisdom in using this as a pilot program and I am taking those recommendations to heart and suggesting that we do amend it to look it as a pilot program. Because if the downtown parking study does actually support changes to the parking, this might be a reasonable way to work it at the library. Because while the parking department can't necessarily go into the library and check the book and all that kind of stuff, the library security guard certainly can. I have run events where the library security guard has done exactly that at the library. They can coordinate with the parking department and say, "We have one of the passes it's been here for over 20 minutes or for over 3 hours, do you want to come and take a look or next time you are down by take a look for this car." I think there is some reasonable partnership that can happen that would allow the student's presentation to continue the way that they expected it.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I appreciate what some of what the previous speaker had to say in particular the part about the previous ordinance to raise the garage fees or whatever. But in regards to this I think Director Cummings has it correct. I understand that there is a benevolence here that we are trying to put forward in that we want to have students be able to come down and park for free to use what should be a free resource, I get that. But the problem is that we are running into discrimination into other demographics, I really believe that. And you know there are rules of the road and one of them is parking. I would love to have more students and younger folks come downtown. What they have to understand is that you know part of that is you have to pay to park. One of the reasons why Nashua has people pay to park is because we do all of the festivals, we do the Farmer's Market every Sunday, we do a variety of things that could fund it with those downtown parking dollars.

We are one of the only cities that I know of that funds things like that that way. So when you are downtown and you are enjoying a festival or something like that, it is the money that you put into the meter that is paying for those things. So you know while I don't think that 20 parking passes for students is going to break the bank, what I do fear is that we would be opening ourselves up to having other groups come in and wanting equal access that students have. And my opinion is that we have to tread very carefully on this because if we open it up to one group we may have to open it up to everybody. And if that is the case, if we have a lawsuit on our hands and that's the case, then we could lose a lot of money that funds things downtown that we all enjoy and like.

So the better alternative, I think, would be to do the study, and then figure out a way that we can make parking at the library free, whether that's for a number of spaces or however we have to do it. But let's look at the study and make it free for everybody. I don't think it's a matter of just taking out the meters or doing something willy-nilly, I want to see, because again we are talking about \$27,000.00 which that's a lot of money when it comes to, that's the funding for 1 or 2 of those festivals. So we have to be careful in what we do but what we might find out is that we can swap some of that revenue that we get at the library to somewhere else and make up for it.

So those are the kinds of things that I would like to see happen as opposed to doing this plan and implementing it right away. Again my reason for that is that I want to make sure that we are doing things equitably. And it has nothing to do and I appreciate the work that was done and I think the plan itself I think would work. I have no issue with that. I think that there is a lot of thought put into; I think that if we did implement it, it would absolutely work exactly as intended. But my fear is that other folks would come forward or we could open ourselves to a law suit that somebody says "Well you are treating students or you are treating younger people different than you are treating me as a senior citizen or me as a veteran or me as a parent". So that's what I am afraid of.

Chairman O'Brien

I am going to hold for a second because the Chair would like to comment. Can we revisit the slides again, can you bring back the costs. OK, if we look at the total revenue parking rate of \$.75 cents per hour, are you familiar that is only part and parcel of the parking lot?

Unidentified Student Yes. There wouldn't be a certain like it wouldn't be 20 spots are held off for anybody it would just be the 20 passes given out.

Chairman O'Brien

Director Cummings if you could help me out, the whole parking lot is not 75 cents per hour that is adjacent to the library.

Mr. Cummings

It's .50 cents and 75 cents correct.

Alderwoman Kelly

So we picked the highest one to show the biggest ...

Chairman O'Brien

So students could park and are you also familiar that we removed the meters on Cottage Avenue?

Alderwoman Kelly

I didn't know that.

Chairman O'Brien

And I'm only saying this depending upon where the vote goes now you should have as part of your information on Cottage Avenue, the meters have been removed which brings it up to and Director Cummings please help me, increases to what 3 hour or 2 hour? Yeah and you know weigh in the balance of the beam here, run in get a pass, coming out, putting it back and then bringing it back and everything else you can walk from Cottage Street at a better rate, you know what I mean?

It is there I just want to present that it is there and it is a walkable distance but I just want to bring that up.

The second question that I have is to Alderwoman Kelly and correct if I am wrong Director Cummings, you brought up other schools may be able to utilize this and not necessarily City-based schools and everything and then it is not a pilot program and was there something else that you brought up?

Mr. Cummings

I just talked about enforcement.

Chairman O'Brien

Enforcement so there is enforcement issues. So this may or may not depending upon the merit of the ordinance, but it sounds like it needs an amendment. Would you as the author would you seek to table this at that time until it becomes an amendment and then reheard again by this Committee and I'll just throw that out there for your consideration. You can chew on it and decide and maybe one of the committee members could reflect your opinion on that.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I answer you?

Chairman O'Brien

Oh yes you may. Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I think I have expressed a couple of times that we discussed it and if the Committee was feeling apprehensive or wanted to do it as a pilot we were open to that. Obviously I can't make that motion.

Alderman Clemons

You can.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm not part of the Committee though.

Alderman Clemons

If you are the primary sponsor you can make amendments.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I still do that? OK, good to know. So I'd love to hear from the Committee in terms of if we do it as a pilot what would be your pleasure, what would feel most comfortable to you if we are already at the start of school. So we had talked about that. The other thing that I wanted to point out is we have written it so that it is specifically and this is what it says, "Anyone eligible for a Nashua Library Card who has a valid current high school or college identification". So it is not any student anywhere and we did talk about the driver's license and that kind of thing but we wanted to make sure that if students wanted to come they are not technically, originally it was written as Nashua residents. So students who go to school in Nashua are eligible for a library card. I have a few other comments and I am happy to hold them.

Chairman O'Brien

You would be happy to hold them, OK? Because the thing is this I do have Alderman Lopez and Alderman Clemons in the queue and I am not trying to cut down any debate upon this but we do have other items before the Board but I am not trying to limit the debate, you've got me here until midnight and I don't care.

Alderwoman Kelly

I don't want to keep you here until midnight.

Chairman O'Brien

But I am trying to see if we could focus and funnel it down and get to a point that we may want to be at. I first have to recognize Alderman Lopez and Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Lopez

I just have a question for Director Cummings through the Chair, are you in support of the Ordinance that we have to take up later regarding free parking on holidays?

Chairman O'Brien

That is not before us at this particular time. That would be debated when that gets introduced.

Alderman Lopez

Ok because before when I first put my hand up, Director Cummings made extensive comments about urban planning and importance of managing and the importance of not doing one before the other. I just heard Director Cummings say "yes" but thank you for redirecting that. So I think there are certain cases where we would look at some groups and say it is OK to park for free if we want them to come downtown for specific purposes. I disagree very strongly with Alderman Clemons characterization of how the events and festivals happen downtown, I think that is a huge disservice to all the donors of Great American Downtown. I think that is extremely inaccurate and I would encourage you to look at Great American Downtown's fact sheet or their Annual Presentation. Because the Downtown Improvement Committee and the Parking Revenue does not support all of those festivals. There are a lot of donors and a lot of work that goes into it. There is an ever-expanding staff and fleet of volunteers that are working to make those things happen.

So I think some people look at parking as funding activities that are happening downtown, I think in a lot of ways it inhibits it. I wasn't the one who created the downtown parking plan so I don't have the same perspective on it. But again, as the Alderman of Downtown, I frequently asked why we have to charge for Saturday afternoons or why there are different amounts for different areas? Are those areas less desirable? Do you not want any business in them? I think the library is a public service; I think it is something that people should be to access, particularly students. So again I reiterate my support for it. And finally I would like to say I don't think we are open for any lawsuits here. I don't think we are disproportionately impacting any protected class. I disagree completely with that characterization as well.

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Lopez, your comments of "why this, why that" is a good Segway into the RFP for the study, outstanding, thank you.

Alderman Clemons

I mean I hesitate to say we would do it as a pilot program again for the same reasons I stated previously, but what if we did it as a pilot program as first come, first serve for anybody. So in other words if you have a library card in Nashua, you could on a first come first serve basis, go up there, give them your library card, they'd give you the pass, then you could park there for free? And we did that as a pilot basis, that way we are not discrimination against anybody, it is just first come first serve.

Chairman O'Brien

And I will refer to Director Cummings but I would answer it or attempt to as why I think we want the RFP to be generated and have the study done to look at because these good people are bringing up a legitimate issue. But looking at the whole picture globally, I think that could be done with this particular study and that's one of the ideas. I mean I would like to say I was going to save this until the end, but I would like to say particularly to you 3, you have evidently picked a very merits discussion. As you can see, the way Government works here the lively discussion that is going on here, I commend you for bringing it forward. Regardless of what the vote is going to be today, I thank you for bringing it forward because it gives something; you have identified something that was underlying that now has seemed to have raised to the top that we are going to solve it at some point. I think we are going to solve it perhaps with you people in mind and as well as all others, when we come down to Alderman Clemons suggestions and Alderman Lopez and everybody else's. This is what we do here, you know, so again I thank you. Regardless of what happens with the vote tonight but I do thank you for doing that because you have spurred something that is very important. Alderman Schmidt I see your hand is up.

Alderman Schmidt

Yes thank you Mr. Chair. I don't think the purpose here is to give away a parking spot. I am pretty sure that the people who are going to go down anyway will go down anyway. I think the purpose of this is to actually encourage students who might otherwise not go to come down and I think that's really a very valid purpose for this. I think the RFP would really benefit from having the data that could be gathered on this. If it were just a short-term study I think it would benefit the RFP and so I am very much for this if it is considered a short term study. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

So first of all I wanted to similarly say what you were saying about the lively debate. I hope you guys know that this is, I mean there are things that we talk about for about 5 minutes and go on and you have brought up something; I hope you are able to see how things work. And I really appreciate all my colleagues for really vetting this and having a conversation. I think it is great to see that we are not always on the same page. Sometimes people feel that we need to pay for parking downtown and sometimes people don't feel that way.

I obviously think a pilot program makes a lot of sense. I think that doing the study also makes a lot of sense. I don't think we are going to hear a whole lot different than what everybody in this horseshoe has said they've heard from seniors, from moms, from students who want to go downtown. I'm part of the Business Community Downtown and I have seen so many businesses come and go and multiple times it's been "Well if I go Amherst Street, it is free parking". I remember one of the very first meetings that I came to the woman who owned Graffiti and Paint Bar was really, really excited to come downtown and she just closed. So I think it is a bigger discussion and I let them know when they decided this is what they wanted to do that it was going to be a bigger discussion and I am really welcoming that.

So thank you everyone. I would move to make this a pilot program. I would like to start with the School Year see how everybody feels like that, so it would start when we put it in until June. Do you need me to say specific language?

Chairman O'Brien

Well the Chair does have other questions with the ordinance and I don't have it verbatim right here in front of me but it has been brought that it could include other schools not necessarily Nashua schools in its dictation?

Alderwoman Kelly

No.

Chairman O'Brien

I was led to believe by Director Cummings that may be an interpretation. Director Cummings could you clarify that for you please?

Mr. Cummings

So it comes down to how do you define "eligible Nashua library card". So if non-residents are eligible for a Nashua Library Card and have a valid, current high school or college identification they would qualify for this program.

Alderwoman Kelly

Correct. And actually if Jen wants to speak to this, so we actually did do that on purpose. For example Rivier students are not considered residents but they are students. But in order to have a library card...

Jen McCormick

Hi I am Jen McCormick I am the Library Director and I have no authority over the parking lot whatsoever. And I think you all know that at the library we give everything we have away for free. We loan it and we just hope that people bring it back. I kind of lean in a more liberal direction. To answer the question that's asked, to qualify for a library card you need to live, work or go to school in the City. So yes the way it has been written, students who don't live in Nashua but go to school in Nashua would be eligible for the parking pass. Which I think that would be a value of our Board that we allow them to use library cards because they are part of the education system.

Chairman O'Brien

Director Cummings.

Mr. Cummings

So if I may to make my point, if I am a Hudson or whomever student I work at the Pheasant Lane Mall, I work here, I'm eligible for a library card. I go to school outside of Nashua, I have a valid current high school ID, you'd be qualifying for this program as written. I just want to be clear that that's ...

Ms. McCormick

If you have a valid ID from a Nashua School.

Mr. Cummings

It doesn't say that, it says current high school or college identification. It doesn't say Nashua High School, it doesn't say Nashua College.

Alderman Kelly

We can add. He wants the words “who has a valid Nashua or College Identification”. We can add that.

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Klee can you hold on? This is what I am saying, do you want to take this and to I mean unless you feel an amendment here within the Chamber you are 100% but it may need to be trimmed up a little bit here, you know?

Alderman Kelly

I would say if that is a concern that people have we can add the word “Nashua” and we can add “pilot program to end on the last day of school”.

Chairman O'Brien

But would you recommend tabling so that you can bring a clean bill to this Committee?

Alderman Kelly

No I'd like to see if we can make, I mean we're not making big sweeping....

Chairman O'Brien

I'm just saying just to make sure it is going to be done correctly. Before everybody gets excited, Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

I just want to make one comment and when we are going through the changes if it were possible, again I'm not part of this Committee. Say “Nashua” to me is not good enough only because I could be a Nashua resident, have a Nashua Library Card but I go to UNH or I go to another school, I go to a Massachusetts School. I should still have the same – that's why I am saying is I think it's a slippery slope if we just put Nashua. And I'm not saying that any of those students are even going to use it I just don't want to cordon off a particular area and it is not always going to be Nashua Schools.

Alderman Kelly

That's a really valid point and to that point there were probably 4 or 5 students who worked on this all summer long who go to Georgetown and go to out of state colleges that might want the access next summer when they are here so that's a good point.

Mr. Cummings

If I may to help move this conversation along it would help if Alderman Kelly wrote down the amendment she would like now that the Chair then could read and it could then be adopted.

Alderman Kelly

OK I can do that. Can I ask the Board it still says will not exceed 20 passes? It says the total number of parking passes available at one time would not exceed 20 passes and the total number available will be set and adjusted based on usage. So we could start at 10, see how it goes, adjust it up, adjust it down, depending on how it is being used.

Chairman O'Brien

It may be a compromise, better, yeah. A small pilot program. Alright. While you are writing it up is there any other further comment at this time? Then again I am going to at this particular time I am going to hold – yes we have a comment? OK I am going to hold further discussion on O-19-051 and move the agenda while the amendment is being prepared. We have other worthwhile items to be discussed. I would like to thank our guests. I thought this was going to be a very easy evening but again I thank you for coming forward with this. I think we are going to do something with it and we shall see what the Full Board things. So again I thank you for your participation in our Government and I thank you very much.

Unidentified Student Thank you, we really appreciate your feedback.

Chairman O'Brien

The reason I am going to come out of that, we will still leave that hanging and we will reconvene on that particular ordinance to give Alderwoman Kelly time to write it. We have other things we can do while she's transcribing it. So therefore I am going to turn to the Clerk to the regular items on the agenda.

O-19-049

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman Ken Gidge
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman Tom Lopez
 Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
 Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
 Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
 Alderman Jan Schmidt
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**AUTHORIZING FREE HOLIDAY PARKING AT METERS IN ZONE III WHICH INCLUDES THE
 ELM STREET AND HIGH STREET PARKING GARAGES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2019 THROUGH
 JANUARY 3, 2020**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGEON THE QUESTIONAlderman Lopez

I would like to point out to the public that while we just had a lengthy discussion about one area, this is something we do every year so this is why we are probably going to move much quicker on it.

Mr. Cummings

Thank you if I may, for the record, Tim Cummings Director of Economic Development. I was asked earlier this evening my position on this Ordinance. I want to say for the record this would not be my preference, I would not recommend it to you. However, this seems to be part of the culture here in Nashua and it has been long standing. It is understood to be part of a tradition and that's great and that's a value that this community has created. Therefore that is why this should proceed. I should also note it is an area that is not as detrimental in terms of financial impact and it is a nice thing that we can do on a limited, temporary basis for the downtown.

Alderman Lopez

So Happy Holidays.

Alderman Clemons

And it doesn't discriminate on what class of person you are either.

Alderman Schmidt

Anybody, everybody.

MOTION CARRIED

O-19-050

Endorsers: Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

CHANGING THE LOCATION OF THE PARKING PERMITS FOR DALIANIS HOUSE RESIDENTS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

Yeah just to clarify as one of the co-sponsors. So the City decided when Dalianis House went in there were issues with parking for the residents there. Dalianis House serves homeless veterans and veterans in transition looking for housing. So it is definitely a very helpful program for our City but they didn't have anywhere to park because of the location of the building. So the City allowed for specific spots to be left on the garage of the High Street Garage. What we found though is that the majority of individuals who are veterans and homeless have mobility impairments or disabilities, so the spaces were extremely under-utilized. Meanwhile down underneath the overpass those were also being under-utilized because geographically they were really only serving that one location. So the idea here is to flip it and use the spaces for what they were originally intended; helping the people living in Dalianis House specifically and then opening the more general use ones over at the garage to where they will be put to better use. Additionally and Director Cummings can clarify this but we will be collecting fees for that I believe. But we Alderman Wilshire and I have been able to get donations so that the fees aren't going to be paid for by the veterans they are going to be paid for by organizations that support veterans such as the VFW and Elks Club and donors like that. So we still get money but veterans don't have to pay it.

Mr. Cummings

Yes thank you Tim Cummings Director of Economic Development. So this Ordinance was drafted and presented to my office. We fully support this; we think it is a great way to solve an issue that has been abundantly clear to us with us reserving parking spaces that were not being used and therefore it seems like a win/win solution all the way around.

MOTION CARRIED

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Petition to Release Façade Easement

- Referred to NCPB; Continued to its 8/8/2019 mtg

Chairman O'Brien

There is the petition to release the façade easement; this is in reference to the Country Tavern Hotel in that vicinity. Director Cummings do you have comments on this?

Mr. Cummings

I do, thank you Mr. Chair. Again for the record Director Tim Cummings. So this Ordinance before you I am asking for it to be continued, that is also a request of the applicant as well. We are still waiting to have a recommendation by the Planning Board. I will tell you that we are actively trying to work with the applicant for a reasonable solution for all parties involved. I am hopeful that by the time this group meets again in September I will be able to make a presentation to you.

Chairman O'Brien

So therefore without objection I make the recommendation to keep R-19-147 to remain on the table; seeing no objection it shall remain there. No excuse me, I read the wrong one. No 147, well keep the Country Tavern Façade on the table. I don't have the exact number. But also before us is to take R-19-147.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-19-147
MOTION CARRIED**

R-19-147

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Tom Lopez

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE AND SALE OF CITY LAND AT 21 PINE STREET (MAP 77, LOT 17) AND LAND OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY AT 3 PINE STREET EXTENSION (MAP 77, LOT 2A)

- Also assigned to the Nashua City Planning Board and the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee
- NCPB Issued Favorable Recommendation - 7/11/2019
- Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee issued Favorable Recommendation – 8/5/2019
- Tabled 6/17/2019

Chairman O'Brien

Ok open discussion for R-19-147 but first I am going to refer to Director Cummings to give us further briefings on this Resolution.

Mr. Cummings

Again thank you Mr. Chair. For the record, Tim Cummings Director of Economic Development. So I am here this evening to ask that you favorably endorse this Resolution. This has been a long time coming and something that has been a product of not just my office but a lot of offices here in City Hall. I want to take a moment and recognize that we have representatives from Eversource here this evening with us who is our partner with us in this Resolution. And what this basically does is helps to bring to fruition a better vision of the mill yard because we will be able to slide the current Eversource Substation a little bit further north to vacant land and free up land that could be developed.

So this is has been the product of I would say at least a year's length of conversation to get here this evening. It has been vetted by our Planning Board, Mine Falls Advisory and a lot of City Hall Departments. So we are hopeful that we can get approval this evening from this Committee to send it on before the Board of Aldermen because time is starting to be of the essence. I know Eversource is anxious to get under construction with the new sub-station as quickly as possible. So with that being said Mr. Chair I turn it back to you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you. Any additional questions for Mr. Cummings on this? I know you have been working on this for quite some time so I am glad that you got it to a final solution there. So therefore, would the clerk like to make a motion.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Clemons could you ask Alderman Klee to come out because the next item to be discussed is one of her bills. I think she's in the office. Thank you, we can pause for a second. Yes?

Elizabeth Morocco, Eversource Community Relations I just wanted to thank you for your time this evening and consideration and the Director's support as well.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you. I know this has been on the docket for several months but it shows we can work and we can get it done so I am very happy to come to a solution that everybody finds acceptable. Thank you so much, thank you for coming tonight.

OK Alderman Klee I did have him get you because I know you have an interest in this and that is R-19-150. Can the Clerk just read by title only without a recommendation.

R-19-150

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR A
PARKING AREA OFF ARTILLERY LANE, NASHUA ABUTTING MAP 63 LOT 45**

- Also assigned to the Board of Public Works; Tabled 6/27/2019
- Tabled 6/17/2019

Chairman O'Brien

At this particular time, there seems to be ongoing, active negotiations that due to confidentiality of the negotiations we really cannot discuss at this particular time. It would be my recommendation that it remains on the table to further the investigation. And without objections we will keep R-19-150 on the table. Without objection? Very good.

Alderman Schmidt

We still have Bowers Street. Leave it on the table?

Chairman O'Brien

We also have that on the table, without objection to remain on the table O-19-036. Can the clerk please read the title?

O-19-036

Endorsers: Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderswoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderswoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee

DESIGNATING AN ADDITIONAL SECTION OF BOWERS STREET ONE-WAY EASTERLY

- Tabled 2/27/2019

Chairman O'Brien

And Director Cummings do you have a comment?

Mr. Cummings

I do thank you Mr. Chair, for the record, Tim Cummings Director of Economic Development. I am pleased to provide this body with an update on this. Yesterday I received an e-mail that a study has been concluded by the Nashua Planning Area Commission where they have looked at this area in question, their transportation folks had some recommendations. What I would suggest is off-line we create a working group type meeting for those who are interested similar to what we did back in March/April for this very initiative and see if based on the results that NRPC presents to us if we could plot a pathway forward. I would be happy to organize that meeting.

Chairman O'Brien

To that avail, would you like the appointment of 2 Aldermen on that group?

Mr. Cummings

Sure yeah. My understanding is last time around it was Alderman Lopez and Alderman O'Brien both of you.

Chairman O'Brien

Seeing that they are familiar with that...

Alderman Lopez

I think we should include Alderman Caron too since it is literally the border of our two Wards.

Chairman O'Brien

You know us Irish are happy to throw another cup of water into the soup, everybody eats, there you go. OK. The Chair appoints Alderman Lopez and myself to that Committee. And the Chair will ask, I don't have the authority, she's not a member of the committee, but I will extend the invitation to Alderman Caron seeing that is her Ward and I think that is prudent, thank you Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Alderman Lopez wishes not to invite her wrath.

Chairman O'Brien

OK very good. Director Cummings you will call the date of the first date of the first meeting of that?

Mr. Cummings

I will organize that.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you, OK. Alright, without objection again I will now reconvene O-19-051. Will the Clerk please read it to remind us by title please?

O-19-051

Endorser: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Jan Schmidt

**PROVIDING FREE LIBRARY PARKING FOR UP TO THREE HOURS FOR NASHUA STUDENTS
USING THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Alderwoman Kelly

I am passing out the amended and the original ordinance for you guys.

Chairman O'Brien

Will the Clerk please read the paragraph with the amended part please?

Alderman Schmidt

Just the amended part or the entire? Just the amended part?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes.

Alderman Schmidt

This program will operate as a pilot program with an expiration of 6/16/2020. However 60 days prior to expiration a report will be made to the BOA to review success and consider continuation.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TO AMEND O-19-051

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. Cummings

Yes if I may Mr. Chair I would advise that you read the Motion or say the Motion as follows: This Motion would be to delete period and quotation at the end of the paragraph and insert the following: This program will operate as a pilot program with an expiration date of June 16, 2020. However 60 days prior to the expiration a report will be made to the Board of Aldermen to review success and consideration continuation. Period, Close Quotation.

Chairman O'Brien

OK and hopefully that will be transcribed into it. I'll get Alderman Klee and Alderman Clemons afterwards.

Alderman Klee

Just one comment, I did help Alderman Shoshanna Kelly, she dictated and I wrote for her and I should have mentioned this. The only thing we might want to add is who does the review.

Alderwoman Kelly

In terms of what Committee?

Alderman Klee

Yeah it said that a report will be made to the BOA. We probably should have mentioned who would be responsible for doing that report. Otherwise it just hangs out there.

Alderman Clemons

My question was the same as Alderman Klee's.

Alderman Lopez

Can we get the students to do it? I mean they did this, they can probably get the data from the library since they collect all kinds of data.

Alderwoman Kelly

I think it would be good for them to get in and see how it is working for them too. So I think the comment from Alderman Lopez was "let's make the Youth Advisory Committee do that report" and make sure they review how it is going and bring them back at that point. I'm open to other suggestions.

Alderman Clemons

I think it would be important to get their input and I think they should be part of the report but I would also like to see it come from the library and also from the Economic Development Department as well. So I think input from all three.

Alderman Kelly

So would you want to be listed out, I mean I think inherent in the Youth Advisory Committee making that study would be discussions with Economic Development and Parking.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah I think it would be good to put that in the Ordinance.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ok.

Chairman O'Brien

We are amending it again.

Alderman Lopez

We haven't actually approved the amendment so we are just wordsmithing right now.

Alderwoman Kelly

Correct.

Alderman Schmidt

So we will change it to, excuse me Mr. Chair, "will be made by..."

Alderwoman Kelly

The Youth Advisory Committee in consult with Economic Development, the Library and Parking, I guess Economic Development is already covered, and the Library. That should be enough.

Chairman O'Brien

You have for your consideration have you not eliminated a downtown improvement committee on that and therefore, just to identify they did send us a letter, evidently they have a weighted balance, an opinion on this and should they not also have like I say some input as well on this?

Alderman Clemons

Director Cummings is a member of the Downtown Improvement Committee as part of the Ordinance that governs that. And so I think that he could be the liaison to that committee just by the fact that he is a member of that committee. So I don't think it is necessary to include them because we have Director Cummings.

Chairman O'Brien

Remember we talked about making sure it is all inclusive this is one of them to all committees particularly where they sit. Director Cummings would that be viable in your representation it would come under? OK.

Mr. Cummings

Yes thank you so if I am understanding this correctly the Youth Advisory Committee will be producing the report in consultation with Economic Development/Parking and the Library. And of course I think other stakeholders will be consulted beyond that, Downtown Improvement Committee and others. And we can ensure that happens. My question to the body is what is success? And I think you should define what success is so you can accurately measure it.

Alderman Lopez

Honestly I think I'd just rather do a pilot where you collect data rather than decide what the outcome is going to be before you collect it.

Alderman Kelly

We can remove the word “success”; “to review and consider continuation”, because I think everyone’s definition of success and I apologize, I did not raise my hand, sorry, is going to be different.

Mr. Cummings

Correct.

Alderman Schmidt

Instead of “success” how about “the outcome”. Much clearer. “Outcome”.

Alderman Kelly

Can I request that you read that back with those changes?

Chairman O'Brien

I would gather that at the end of this program it being at 60 days, the pros and cons of it will be rehashed again so I think the yard stick that would be used to measure success or not would be utilized in common sense at that particular point anyways. But Director Cummings you do bring up, I just hate to put myself personally, put a number if they only say these parking passes were used 2%, you know what I mean, what is success? I don't know.

Mr. Cummings

Some might argue that is success.

Chairman O'Brien

Exactly but I think this would, the pilot program, I love sunsets, I love watching them and I like Resolutions with them you know what I mean that has it in such a way that we can look at it and clear it up if it does pass the full board.

Alderman Lopez

I would point out though that all of us in this room except Alderman Kelly are up for re-election so we may not even be here; or we may be here. So we can't speak for a future Board. If we over identify what outcomes of success or expectations are we are kind of nailing them down.

Chairman O'Brien

You are absolutely correct, we never speak for any future body of Government. But they will speak on their own believe me and refer to us. Alright. I am going to ask that we accept the amendment on 19-051.

Alderman Klee

I was trying to say is that have we really read the amendment with these last changes in it? You want to re-read it.

Chairman O'Brien

OK point well taken, withdraw that, can the clerk please re-read so there is a question on the amendment just for accuracy.

Alderman Schmidt

This is the phrase as it was added: This program will operate as a pilot program with an expiration date of 6/16/20. However 60 days prior to expiration a report will be made to the Board of Aldermen to review outcome and consider continuation. Outcome by the Youth Advisory Committee with the Library and Economic Development.

Chairman O'Brien

Discussion on the amendment.

Alderman Klee

May I ask that it say "prior to expiration a report by the Youth Advisory Committee in consult with ... will be made to review outcome and consideration". So after the word report I would put the "By Youth Advisory".

Alderman Schmidt

That sounds good. Yes. Clearer.

Chairman O'Brien

This is not clean and it is going to come down to the transcriber and then it is going to get on Pony Express up to Legal. So I recommend to Alderwoman Kelly as the main sponsor to due diligence and I know that you will. But to make sure before whatever the vote outcome is of this Committee, that it does say what you want it to say before it gets to the Board OK? Because this is kind of flying right here and just to make sure it is accurate ok? And I think we are doing good diligence; I am just saying to make sure we get it so follow up would be in order. So again did we vote on that? No we didn't, so any other amendments to the amendments of the amendments? Alderman Klee what do we do when we amend so many bills up at the State House?

Alderman Klee

We usually table it or we run downstairs to OLS. We run downstairs, have them reprint it and then hand it to everybody because they won't go by hearing.

MOTION CARRIED

O-19-051

Endorser: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Jan Schmidt

**PROVIDING FREE LIBRARY PARKING FOR UP TO THREE HOURS FOR NASHUA STUDENTS
USING THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE WITH AMENDMENTS

ON THE QUESTIONChairman O'Brien

The thing is again I thank our guests for coming but I don't see the five alarm fire over the horizon on this particular issue. I think what you brought today is something that we need to fix for sure. But I don't think we had to do it tonight and particularly when we look at the potential of an RFP and it does come down. Our forefathers came up with the free library system so that all of us could get educated and that has worked well for our democracy. Unfortunately we are now charging people to park in front of part of democracy. I understand that but to fix the problem you have to look at also too the whether it is the veterans or the elderly or anything else and these questions aren't answered with this particular.

So therefore, I am not going to support it based upon the reason of I would like to have the report that is pending to come out that looks at other and all aspects of the City particularly within the downtown. Because that may make a recommendation; we don't know to relook at the library parking and what we do here this evening may be mute and may come back and to make that change. If this had something other than the 75 cents per time, 75 cents per hour, I don't find that life threatening, you know to come up and particularly the way this was amended and everything else like that. It is something that I think we could have probably slowed down a bit but I am willing to support whatever this, what the Board tells me to support with this, with this Committee. So therefore just to explain I am not going to support it, I'm not saying it's not a bad idea, it's an idea whose time has come, I would have liked to have waited for the report. Any other discussion on it?

MOTION CARRIEDAlderman Lopez

Is recommended as amended. I am just clarifying for the students back here, it is recommended as amended; it still is going to go to the full board.

GENERAL DISCUSSIONAlderwoman Kelly

I just want to thank everyone. I think was a great evening of seeing legislation come up and having discussions and thank you for your time and allowing the Youth Advisory Committee to bring this forward so I appreciate that.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I too want to thank you all for coming this evening. I am going to ask a question of Corporation Counsel just to make sure that this isn't violating anybody else's civil rights or putting us in a predicament where we can or we might run afoul of civil rights laws. If that is the case where we do have the authority to do this with a pretty clear conscious without having to worry about having to give the same privilege to another protected class of folks, then it certainly will get my support but I will have to go with what Corporation Counsel says.

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to point out that yesterday was our filing period and many of us are up for election so good luck to everybody that is running.

Alderman Gidge

A week or so ago Mrs. McCarthy rang the bell to begin the Greeley Park 66th Year of Opening of the Greeley Park Art Show. This is a beginning tradition, she enjoyed herself, she was also interviewed for a public access television show. So you will be hearing more about that. Also we came up with something that may be of interest, a little help from the City financial, not much, we had 60 artists this year; 120 artists next year. The music across the street, just acoustic, nothing large and the first annual dog and cat show who will be I'm sure would want to be put on by our friend sitting next to us, Ms. Klee. It should be fun. One other thing, and I just found out tonight, as people know we did build some studios for artists. It has been slow putting people in there. Last night the first person from Lowell came, looked at it, was absolutely esthetic, called up and four more people want to come in, that means it is completely filled. That means at this particular point, I will be sharing a studio with someone.

Also this is interesting, Tim came up with an idea, because we have those mini studios ok where people can come in and put their stuff and then use it. I was calling it a closet. So Tim says, "you can't call it a closet". So I said, "OK Tim what would we call it" and he said, "How about a phone booth". So a young person said to me, "what is it" and I said, "it's more like a phone booth" and the person said, "well what is a phone booth" and I said, "It's a closet with a phone inside of it". Anyway the mini studios hopefully we can get one or two of them rented which means an artist can come in, their stuff is there, they can take it, they can bring it into the public area, they can start working. That means if those are full and the others are full we now can find more space to rent studios because now we are starting to make money. So to Tim Cummings, thank you very much. Also yourself, over there, helped design part of it, thank you very much.

Chairman O'Brien

That is directed to Alderman Schmidt.

Alderman Gidge

I want to get the names right. Mr. McCarthy, obviously the Mayor was really special about this. You've all got to come down to see it because stuff is now getting on the wall. Don't laugh at me too much alright so anyway that is kind of good news and it makes me feel good because I wanted them rented and thank you Tim and we've got to talk because we've got to do more spaces. Anyway, thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified Student I just want to say thank you for all your feedback. I'm George, and I also want to say thank you to some of the people on the Youth Advisory Committee that weren't here; hopefully I don't forget anyone. Ben Tulusky, Haley Sweeney, and others. Again thank you to all of you.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:53 p.m.

Alderman Jan Schmidt
Committee Clerk

Memo

August 9, 2019

Subject: 0-19-051 PROVIDING FREE LIBRARY PARKING FOR UP TO THREE HOURS FOR NASHUA STUDENTS USING THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

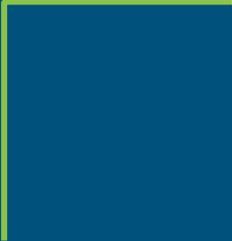
At the August 9, 2019 Downtown Improvement Committee meeting discussion was presented regarding a proposed resolution to provide free parking for students at the Nashua Public Library. The committee is unanimously not in favor of 0-19-051. If we decide to provide free parking for one demographic we must also consider requests from others, senior citizens, mothers with children, to name a few.

The DIC is also working with the city parking division to initiate a proposal for a complete parking study of the downtown area. This would include reviewing rates, times, leases, areas where there are no meters, etc. This complete study would give us an in-depth review of what is currently in place and suggestions on what we can do to improve the downtown parking. The committee feels it would be in the best interest of all to implement any changes when a study is completed.

On behalf of the Downtown Improvement Committee

Marylou Blaisdell

Chair



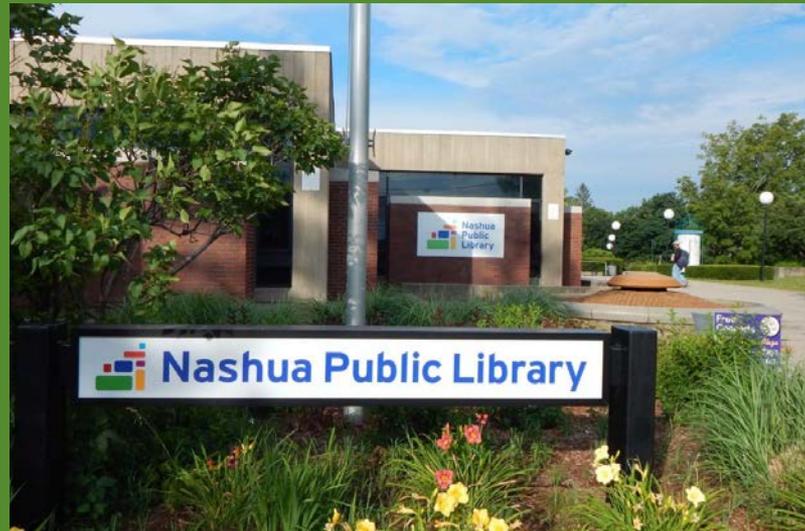
Library Parking Ordinance

Proposed By: The Youth Advisory
Committee



What

A program for free student parking at the
Nashua Public Library



Who

- High School Students
- College Students
- Any students eligible for a library card



Why

- To remove a financial barrier
- To ensure library resources are accessible to all students
- To encourage students to come downtown





How?

Implementation

Plan

Laminated

Passes

Up to 20

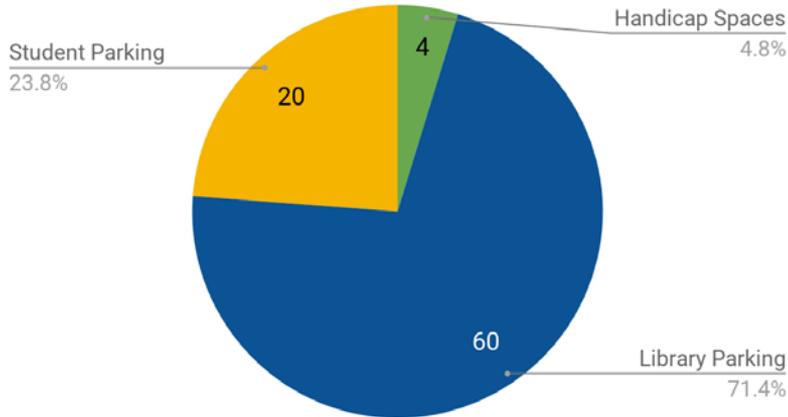
3-hour limit

Student ID Collateral

Financial Impact

The estimated impact of allotting students 20 of the 80 available spaces is based on the assumption of 100% participation

Impact on Parking Spaces



Hour	Total Revenue: Free Student Parking	Total Revenue: Regular Parking Rate (\$0.75 per hour)
1	\$0.00	\$0.75
2	\$0.00	\$1.50
3	\$0.00	\$2.25



Questions?
