



Ted Zeller – Chairperson
Candida Affa – Vice Chairperson
Santo Napoli – Treasurer
Daryl Hendricks – Secretary
Seth O’Neill- Member
John N. Morgan – Executive Director
Dan McCarthy, Davison McCarthy – APA Solicitar

**ALLENTOWN PARKING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Allentown Parking Authority Board of Directors was held at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the Office of The Allentown Parking Authority, located at 603 W. Linden Street, Allentown, PA 18101.

The following attended:

Ted Zeller – Chairperson
Candida Affa – Vice Chairperson
Daryl Hendricks – Secretary
Santo Napoli – Treasurer
Bina Patel – City of Allentown, Interim Finance Director
Dan McCarthy – APA Solicitor
John Morgan – Executive Director
Jon Haney – Deputy Director
Christina Dayton – Deputy Director
Jill Fessler – Finance Manager
Christina Nolden – Minutes

Guests:

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|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Al Jacobson | Betty Caulor | Enrique Amoreno | Jessica Ortiz |
| Lucy Bloise | Jalyssa Ortiz | Lindsay Weber, Morning Call | Jean Graham |
| Jose Cartagena | Cassidy Bentacourt | Nancy Myers | Julio Moreno |
| Julius Smith | J. Domunquez | Washington H. | Ingrid Ullon |
| Rumaldo Liviano | Antonio Betancourt | Johvanne | |

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Zeller called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Zeller opened courtesy of the floor with mentioning that since there are a lot of members of the public that each guest gets 10 minutes to speak with the Board.

Al Jacobson introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Allentown Symphony Association. Mr. Jacobson also introduces Lucy Bloise the Vice President of Partnerships and Special Events of the symphony. The Symphony proposes a partnership with the APA that will help generate revenue for the APA in advance of people using the parking. The idea would be to partner to sell

prepaid parking passes to the symphony subscribers. There are 406 households that subscribe to orchestra concerts. They would be able to prepay for use of any decks located downtown and APA would get revenue in advance. In addition, Mr. Jacobson offered benefits to APA such as complimentary tickets, a yearly rental of the Rodale community room, and these things could be combined should APA need to host anyone at one of the concerts. In exchange for the partnership, they have up to 25 monthly parking passes for use by symphony staff. Mr. Zeller clarifies that the employees are at the symphony on a regular basis, working during the week and working events. This is not for musicians when they rehearse. Mr. Zeller confirmed that the symphony is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Mr. Zeller asked where they are parking now. Parking is currently on the lot at 6th and Turner owned by City Center. The rate is \$60.00 per pass, which started in January. Mr. Zeller asked if Mr. Jacobson is concerned whether City Center is going to have long term availability or if they are going to cut that off. Mr. Jacobson stated that they have not made any indication of cutting them off or of a rate increase. The symphony is just trying to find a better parking arrangement. Mr. Zeller stated that the Board will need to discuss this matter in Executive Session. Mr. Hendricks concurs that it will need to be discussed since it is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Mr. Santo asked about the ATC capacity. Mr. Haney stated we could fit 25. Strata can fit only 19.

Jessica Ortiz introduced herself next. She lives in the City of Allentown and is non-profit business owner. She mentioned that she puts out a flyer to the public to make everyone aware of the Board meeting. Her non-profit is located at 113 N. 9th Street. She also has a salon. She used to be with a real estate company on the corner of 6th and Hamilton which just moved because he could not deal with the parking tickets and towing. She gets calls from the elderly that always need help with the meters. She lives on a block that gets a ticket every day. There are so many businesses that it is difficult to park on her own block. She lives on the 500 block of Tilghman. There are spaces available to purchase from the APA, but they are 2 blocks down where people sell drugs. Both of her daughters have jobs that they come home late, and they would have to walk through a drug invested area. Ms. Ortiz is there to create awareness peacefully and to help find solutions. She is concerned that even she can't work the parking app. Mr. Napoli asked if there are any parking restrictions on that block. She stated that there is a loading zone and two limited parking. She mentioned how there is a chop shop that jack up cars on the street, taking up spaces and the police department tell her to call the APA. Ms. Affa asked why there is a loading zone. Mr. Haney stated that the smoke shop uses that loading zone and at times they use more than what is allotted. Mr. Zeller mentioned that the APA is aware of these dense areas, and it has been trying to find dilapidated properties to purchase and make surface lots. Ms. Ortiz state that she is a part of the redevelopment authority that works on blighted properties. Mr. Haney and Mr. Napoli both stated that she should also make complaints to dispatch online. Mr. Zeller stated that the APA is going to work on a way to be able to upload photos when submitting issues to dispatch. Mr. Zeller thanked her for coming in.

Jose Cartagena introduced himself. He is there to ask for a copy of the ordinances implemented by City Council. He mentioned that he believes that the APA is not mentoring the enforcement officers properly. Mr. Cartagena believes that the APA is not giving the public enough time to do what they have to do. When someone pulls over you instantly get a ticket. Mr. Zeller confirmed that this is a double-parking issue. Mr. Cartagena asked if there is a time limit on double parking because when he is trying to help an elderly man with a walker take care of his groceries, he is immediately getting ticketed. He asked if the APA can come back around if they see someone helping another. Mr. Cartagena suggested that there be communication with the officers to ask that they allow some time to people that are helping others. Ms. Affa asks if Mr. Cartagena is suggesting that during officer training that they learn to observe why someone may be double-parking and perhaps allow a double-parker 30 seconds to help someone. Mr. Cartagena said it would be a good idea to allow supervisors to teach the officers to be aware of the officers' surroundings. Mr. Cartagena thanked us for the APA's time.

Julius Smith of Allentown spoke next. He works for Uber. He received 2 double-parking tickets within 30 seconds at 6:00 am which totaled \$200.00. He was picking up a woman to take her to work. He was sitting in his car when he was issued the tickets at 6:24 am. Mr. Hendricks confirmed that he was double-parked even though Mr. Smith had a space available for him to park. Mr. Hendricks suggested that he should have drove around to park in the space facing the other direction. Mr. Smith suggested that the officer did not even look to see if there was anyone in front of him that prevented him from moving. Mr. Smith further states that now he is parked and the officer pulls up next him and is double-parked in a sense, and the officer hands him a ticket out the window. Mr. Smith states that the officers are making a hostile environment by showing no respect. Ms. Affa stated that there is a lazy parking ticket when someone double-parks and chooses not to park in an open parking spot. That is why he received a \$200 ticket. Mr. Zeller stated again that the APA will investigate the protocols of ticketing. Mr. Napoli stated that the general public pressured the APA to enforce double parking. Mr. Smith is asking that the officers consider why someone may be double parking. Mr. Zeller mentioned that it isn't always a pleasant experience for the APA officers to confront the public.

Rumaldo Liviano began by stating that he knew someone that also got the same lazy parking ticket because he has a big truck. Sometimes spaces are just too small. He is on West Liberty. He never used to have a problem, but now tenants are not using the Hyman parking lot and parking on the street. Mr. Hendricks stated that there is nothing the APA can do about it if they are parking legally. Mr. Liviano believes that parking on the street is closer to their residence. Mr. Zeller thanked him for coming in.

Betty Cauler introduced herself as a resident living on Tilghman Street, Allentown. Mr. Zeller confirmed that Ms. Cauler had attended the City Council meeting and that he had reviewed her testimony. He also sent it to the Executive Director. Mr. Zeller mentioned that the APA is in the process of looking at different penalties within the city. He asked if she was going to talk about the alley parking. Ms. Cauler mentioned that in 2019 there was a meeting with City Council to change the wording of the current ordinances. Mr. Zeller mentioned that there is not one alley that is more than 20 feet wide so therefore the wording is nonsense. Mr. Zeller stated that he plans to work on redrafting that ordinance because he believes the city can't be taking parking inventory out of the alleys. Public safety needs to be looked at along with police and the fire department. Ms. Cauler stated that City Council has all of her documentation that they could provide to him. Ms. Cauler mentioned that Tilghman Street is one of the busiest entryways into the city. Ms. Cauler asked if the Allentown Parking Authority is a private business. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that the APA is an independent authority of the State. Mr. Zeller stated that the State doesn't guarantee our debt. The city doesn't guarantee our debt. The APA has its own debt, projects, revenues and we do not get any tax money. The APA is tax exempt. Ms. Cauler confirmed that the APA does not pay any property taxes. Ms. Cauler continues on by stating that she has talked to the police department, and they are saying that it is against the Constitution of Pennsylvania for a private business to be enforcing laws on public streets. It is one thing on decks or with the meters, but not on the public streets. Mr. Zeller stated that the APA is not a private company that we are an independent governmental agency. Ms. Cauler asked if there will be a public meeting set up to be at night time. Ms. Cauler asked how much the APA gives to the city. Mr. Zeller stated that it ranges from a couple 100 thousand dollars to over a million dollars. The last time there was a contribution was 2 years ago at \$500,000. Mr. Zeller mentioned he wasn't sure what it was last year because the APA was beat up a bit from the pandemic. Mr. Zeller stated that it is the APA's goal to contribute back to the city. He stated that one reason is because there was a lot that the APA just opened on North 7th Street that cost 1.1 million and the return on investment will not be for 50 years. There are repairs being done to the Spiral Deck. There is a new deck built on Walnut Street. Also, the APA was asked to enforce 7 days a week so that's an investment. Ms. Cauler stated that people can call police. Ms. Affa stated no, that is the point, the police do not come out.

Mr. Zeller made a point by stating an example. He asked Mr. Haney for the double-parking ticket number for last year on North 7th Street. Mr. Haney stated APA wrote 1,108 double parking tickets and the Allentown Police Department wrote 9 last year. Ms. Affa stated there's your answer, the APD does not write the double-parking tickets. Ms. Affa stated that this is why we needed to expand to 7 days a week and expand the APA hours.

Jalyssa Ortiz introduced herself as living at 523 West Tilghman Street, Allentown. Ms. Ortiz started out by saying that she has met some of the APA before while helping with the North 7th Street project. Ms. Ortiz is concerned with the 24/7 rule. She comes home from work after 12AM and the people who do not live on her block are taking up the open spaces. Ms. Ortiz mentioned the chop shop that is working on cars in the streets, 7 days a week. Mr. Zeller asked if Ms. Ortiz talked to her mom before she came in to speak. She stated no and Mr. Zeller said that he has requested that the APA update website so pictures can be included in complaints. Ms. Ortiz mentioned that Milton of customer service is great to work with, but she still feels that there needs to be more work on how customer service is speaking to people. She also stated that the alleys need to be looked at because she too has been ticketed for parking on a sidewalk put in by her dad. Mr. Zeller stated that the APA is having a difficult time fixing the density of the cars in the city and finding places to park. Ms. Ortiz continued to ask if customer service could answer complaints with grace and they could be more understanding. Mr. Zeller reminded her that it is a difficult place to be for the APA because some are complaining that they are getting too many tickets and some complaining that others are not ticketed. Ms. Ortiz mentioned that there is less space in her area where people in the West End have garages and pull-ins, we only have one pull-in and there's six people who live in her house. Ms. Ortiz thanked the APA for allowing her to express her concerns.

Enrique Amoreno stated he lives on N. Franklin Street, Allentown. Mr. Zeller asked if he is there for a specific ticket. Mr. Amoreno stated that all of his tickets are from being in an alley way. Mr. Amoreno believes that he is getting ticketed, but others are not being ticketed. Mr. Zeller stated that he will be putting a better system in place.

Mr. Zeller put a hold on courtesy of the floor so that Mr. McCarthy could do the election of the officers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. McCarthy stated it is time for the annual election of officers of the Authority for 2023. This is for one year. The positions available are chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Mr. McCarthy reminded the members of the Board that all members are designated as assistant secretary.

Chairperson: Daryl Hendricks nominated Ted Zeller. The Board Voted – Approved by the Board.

Vice Chairperson: Candida Affa is stepping down. Santo Napoli was nominated by Ted Zeller.

The Board Voted – Approved by the Board.

Treasurer: Candida Affa nominated Bina Patel. The Board Voted – Approved by the Board.

Secretary: Ted Zeller nominated Daryl Hendricks. The Board Voted – Approved by the Board.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (continued)

Nancy Myers introduced herself as a resident living on 4th Street in Allentown. Ms. Myers begins with telling a story about a man that is walking around in the daylight walking car to car. She goes out and asks who he was, and she noticed that it was someone from the APA. She believed that there was a revenge phone call from across the street down near Highland. She believed that that call was taken care of but there was a ticket involved. She guesses that he then proceeded

to do his job and again going from car to car. He pulled out his measuring tape and was measuring cars parked next to every single street corner. There were definitely two tickets issued, possibly three. Mr. Hendricks stated that parking too close to the corner is a city-wide violation, not just downtown. Mr. Hendricks added that parking too close to the street corners is a danger. It causes a hazard to other motorists.

Ingrid Ullon spoke next. She lives on 18th Street. She was leaving her aunts to go grocery shopping. Mr. Zeller asked where she received her ticket. Ms. Ullon said 9th Street was where the ticket was, around 5pm on Sunday. She added that she didn't park she was just dropping her aunt off. The enforcement officer came over to her car and gave her a ticket while she was sitting inside her car. Mr. Zeller stated that the Board will discuss giving vehicles possibly a 30 second warning before issuing a ticket. Ms. Ullon said that she was planning on going to court to dispute her ticket but when she had asked her work if she could have the day off, they told her no. Ms. Ullon said that now she will be paying for the ticket. Mr. Zeller asked if she had paid her ticket yet. Ms. Ullon said that she already paid her ticket.

Mr. Zeller stopped courtesy of the floor to enter executive session. He advised everyone that if they would like they can stay, and the Board will return to courtesy of the floor at the end of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Coming out of executive session Mr. Zeller stated that he would like to make a resolution concerning multiple properties, one of which was our own property authorizing engineering work for the Executive Director to execute a quote we received from Pennoni Engineering for \$50,000.00. This is for our Spiral Deck. Mr. Zeller made a motion, Mr. Hendricks seconded the motion, the Board voted and approved the engineering work.

FINANCIAL REPORT - TEMPORARY BUDGET

Ms. Fessler asked the Board to approve a temporary budget for the first quarter, stating that a new budget will be ready for the Board in March. Mr. Zeller asked if the temporary budget is in our materials. Ms. Fessler said the temporary budget is not, it is the first three quarters of last years approved budget. Mr. Morgan asked if Ms. Fessler has the numbers. Ms. Fessler stated that three months of revenue was \$2,720,175.00. And three months of expenses was \$2,718,951.00. Mr. Zeller made a motion to approve our temporary budget for the first quarter of 2023 according to those numbers, Ms. Affa seconded the motion. The Board voted and approved of the temporary budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Napoli wanted to bring up that his colleague Mr. Hendricks, and Ms. Affa, said residents are bringing up an issue to City Council when it comes to city parking and their inability to make it to meetings. Mr. Napoli mentioned about three years ago to have "Parking Night" at City Council Chambers. Mr. Napoli added it's becoming clear that something needs to be done in the evenings to accommodate residents. Mr. Napoli is proposing a quarterly Parking Night. Mr. Zeller asked what night. Mr. Napoli said he is not sure, but we will have to work with City Council. Mr. Zeller suggested we should implement an internal complaint appeal. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Haney both stated that we do currently have this. Mr. Zeller asked what the process is. Mr. Haney said that if you get a ticket, you come to the office and file your appeal, you submit your reason, complaint, etc., and it goes before Mr. Tosado, our Enforcement Manager, he looks at it. If it makes sense he dismisses the ticket. If it's a valid ticket, he upholds it. Ms. Patel asked if residents know this process. Mr. Haney said yes. We have this explained on our website and the process is displayed

on our office window. Mr. Zeller asked how many appeals Mr. Tosado gets. Mr. Haney said that he would have to ask, but he can get him the numbers. Mr. Napoli reiterated that he would love to have a Parking Night in late February or early March, at either the Americus or Symphony Hall. Mr. Hendricks brought up that he would like to put together a meeting with the Police Chief and Mr. Haney or Mr. Morgan and talk about the comment Jessica Ortiz made where the police told her "They don't deal with that, call the Parking Authority". Mr. Hendricks said that they need to start addressing these issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Morgan asked for approval of the November minutes. Mr. Hendricks made a motion. Ms. Affa seconded the motion. The Board approved the November meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Equipment Update: Mr. Morgan reported that all of the Flash systems are in. Last week we had a software glitch. The QR code was working to get out of the garage; however, the LPR system was down. It was just the Flash garages. This issue has been resolved.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Year-End Enforcement Results: Mr. Haney reported on the year-end enforcement results. For November of last year, we wrote 172 double parking tickets on the North 7th Street targeted area. In the month of December, we issued 243 double parking tickets. For a total of 1,180 double parking tickets in the targeted area. APD in November & December did not contribute. APD had a total of 9 for the year. For Hamilton Street, in November we issued 24 double parking tickets and in December we wrote 29 tickets. The total for that targeted area was 236 for the year. Mr. Haney noted that we started on this area later in the year per the mayor's request, which is why the numbers are a little lower. APD did not contribute for the months of November and December. For the year, APD contributed 29 total. For dispatching, we fielded 916 requests for enforcement in November, and 867 in December. The total for the year was 15,522 enforcement requests. Additionally, in 2022 the APA assisted in the recovery of 28 stolen vehicles and 14 stolen license plates.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (continued)

Courtesy of the floor was opened back up. Cassidy Bentacourt and Antonio Bentacourt introduced themselves as residents of the 500 block of North 10th Street. Ms. Bentacourt stated that the reason she is here is to talk about her issue of living by the prison. Ms. Bentacourt said that the County has two parking lots, both the top and the bottom which she doesn't understand why they are parking outside of those lots and parking in the residential area where they live, making parking difficult for her. Ms. Bentacourt added that this issue is even on the bridge at 4th and Linden and towards Turner Street. Mr. Morgan answered that they don't provide enough parking for their own employees. Mr. Morgan mentioned that he suggested adding meters to the bridge at one point, but it did not happen as the County employees park there. Mr. Napoli brought up that maybe when Lehigh County has its commissioners meeting it can be brought up to them. Ms. Bentacourt asked what happened to paying for a zone where you would park at for a year for residents, she asked if this is something we still do. Ms. Dayton is going to investigate what part of the street she can pay to park in and get back to her. Ms. Bentacourt also mentioned that the office being closed on weekends is an inconvenience when a resident gets a boot on their vehicle and must wait until Monday to have it taken care of. Mr. Haney added that we cannot do anything about this over the weekend if there are warrants issued by the court. We are not authorized to release them. Mr. Haney added that we have new technology such as a Barnacle Boot. He

explained that it's the big yellow square that goes on the windshield. Those are for people that don't have anything associated with the courts, just outstanding parking tickets. We try to utilize those boots since they have a self-release feature, where you can go online to the APA website. You can pay your tickets and any fees that you owe and once you're done it will give you a release code. You then go the keypad on the boot and type in the code and it will release the suction. You then have 12 hours to return that boot. Mr. Haney also offered a suggestion of the surface parking lot that we have on North Penn Street, if she would like to pay she could possibly park there if there isn't a waiting list, its about a block from her house, the cost is \$40 a month. The meeting closed with Mr. Bentacourt thanking the APA for all that they're doing and for even keeping the streets clean.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.
The next Board Meeting will be held on February 22, 2023.