

# Downtown Parking Committee

Meeting Notes

January 22; 5PM

1st Floor Conference Room – City Hall

2020 FEB -4 AM 9:21  
CITY CLERK

Members in Attendance:

- Sydney Moore
- Marci Bennett
- Dee Mariott
- Joel Hane
- Nancy Goode
- Shirlee Allen
- Cris Coffman
- Pat Modlin
- Josh Emberton

Members Not in Attendance:

- Shablrix Jones
- Tony Luke
- Brandt Shields

Staff Present:

- Andy Clements, Keven Schneider, Scott Gatewood

Guest Present:

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Notes:

Chairman Emberton opened the meeting at 5PM. Josh asked for a motion to approve the notes for the December 4th meeting, which was made by Cris and seconded by Shirlee. Unanimous approval.

Andy reviewed the results of the survey responses with much discussion from the members.

Josh wanted to clarify for the committee, as a result of discussions with another member, that the subject of acquiring private lots for public use was outside the purview

of the committee and that he's not open to discussing the subject further. The charge of the group by council is to review and recommend a parking management plan for downtown only.

Josh outlined options that are likely to come from the committee, which might involve recommending that improvements be made to garages to address appearance and safety concerns, but not examples of building new garages. He said it is very unlikely that new parking areas will be created thru the work of the committee. The focus is on how to manage what is available now.

The conversation then evolved into thinking more about why parking garages aren't used more-

- Aesthetics?
- Safety?
- How are rates set to encourage use?

The conversation then turned into wanting to know more about the general responses in the survey.

- Focus Group
  - Invite attendees to send delegate and come to meeting to discuss more general comments.
  - Maybe a questionnaire before a meeting might be a good idea:
    - Ideal parking would meet the needs for employees and customers
- Have committee members assigned to blocks and interview businesses?
  - Last question in interview would be to ask if person being interviewed would be willing to participate in a focus group at a future point

Discussion continued on regarding formulating a mission statement. Pat said that the mission statement has already been given to the committee:

*Review and recommend new strategies to facilitate the [safe and] efficient use and access to public parking facilities.*

Josh said that one could add the word “safe” to the mission statement. He said that with the mission statement already given, one could move toward the following strategies that could be used to reach that goal:

1. Strategy 1 – Survey
2. Strategy 2 – Business directed questionnaire
3. Strategy 3 – Focus Group

Cris mentioned other strategies used in other communities, such as Mainstreet USA. Shirlee is going to take the lead in completing a draft mission statement. to finalize.

Josh mentioned having completed some research as well and will scan and send that out to the committee.

Cris will head up questionnaire organization and wants the committee to use the term “creative solutions” instead of talking about meters. Andy mentioned that at some point soon we need to invite some outside vendors to talk about the application of technology to different parking solutions.

Next agenda:

1. More discussion on tickets being waived by prosecutor. (Andy will ask Jason Soper to attend from legal)
2. Draft questionnaire produced and reviewed at next meeting

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Additional information:

Hello everyone,

I wanted to summarize the information I received at the Main Street Conference regarding parking in downtown areas. Parking Awareness was the issue most of the solutions were built around. Some of these may spark a solution or idea for us.

Here are some creative solutions that offered...

-A campaign pointing out just how many spots they had available in downtown. Example: Downtown, There is nowhere to park except x# of spots.

-Lack of signage or knowledge about parking garage locations and regulations.

-An ad campaign using a big box retailer as an example for how many steps it takes to park in their parking lot and then walk across their store in comparison to parking at a lot 2 blocks away and walking to a downtown business.

Is it a parking management problem?

-Are the time limits on certain spots well thought out? Do they make sense for the businesses in that area?

-A parking courtesy card. A map or google link that shows all the public parking spots in downtown for businesses to offer when someone has questions or complaints about parking.

I look forward to discussing more ideas at our next meeting.

Have a great weekend,

Cris

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From Shirlee-

The following is first draft of a committee mission statement. I invite and welcome your comments.

"The Committee seeks to review the current situation and to recommend creative strategies to better align downtown parking with the needs of people who live, work, and patronize businesses, services, and events downtown. Recommended strategies will enhance the downtown experience in a way that is safe, efficient, sustainable, and fiscally responsible. These strategies will also serve to create value for downtown business and property owners."