



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 12, 9:00 AM
TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY

9:01 AM - CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Anshen, Casillas, Fitzpatrick, Roush, Smith, Talen (no audio), Verunni

GERNERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [Approval of Downtown Parking Advisory Commission Minutes from March 3, 2021](#)

D. King, Parking Ambassador

CONSENT CALENDAR ROLL CALL VOTE: Motioned by Commissioner Casillas, seconded by Commissioner Verunni and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN (no audio): 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. [Parklet Program Update Presentation](#)

Warren Frace provided an overview of the Downtown parklet program with a staff recommendation to agendize parklets within the next 30 days for a review with a presentation from Downtown Restaurants.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Trevor LaSalle

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT: Sally Reynolds, Carole MacDonal, Gretchen LeMiere, Cristina Averseng

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motioned by Commission Roush, seconded by Commissioner Verunni and unanimously approved to schedule a special meeting to discuss the parklet program on June 9, 2021 from 9 AM – 11 AM.

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN (no audio): 1

3. [Parking Program Update Presentation](#)

Julie Dixon with Dixon Resources Unlimited provided an overview of the Downtown Parking management plan with statistics and data to date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Trevor LaSalle

4. [Senior Permits](#)

Commander Davis provided an overview on the current status of the senior permit program with options for the Commission. 3 Commissioners and Councilmember Hamon had to leave prior to the final vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jan Albin

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT: Patrick McMahan, Barbara Hofmann, Valerie Young, Linda Colwell, Sally Reynolds, Norma Moye, Keith Entwistle

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motioned by Commissioner Talen, seconded by Commissioner Anshen and unanimously passed to postpone vote on senior permit recommendations until all commissioners can be present at a special meeting to be scheduled within 2 weeks.

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 3 (Commissioners that needed to leave early due to length of meeting)

COUNCILMEMEBER REPORT

5. [Councilmember Hamon Update](#)

Councilmember Hamon advised commissioners that City Council is reliant on the Downtown Parking Advisory Commission's recommendations. He encouraged commissioners to reach out to stakeholders and community members to get feedback on parking program.

ADJOURNMENT of the May 12, 2021 Downtown Parking Advisory Commission meeting at 1118 AM. Motioned by Commissioner Anshen, seconded by Commissioner Talen, and passed unanimously by voice vote to adjourn to the next Downtown Parking Advisory Commission meeting to be scheduled within 2 weeks.

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL OR A PERMANENT PART OF THE RECORDS UNTIL APPROVED BY THE DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY COMMISSION AT A FUTURE REGULAR MEETING.

Submitted by:

Donna King, Parking Coordinator
Approved:

Downtown Parking Advisory Commission 05-12-21 Public Comments:

Agenda Item 2 – Parklet Program Update Presentation

From: Sally Reynolds <sallyreynolds532@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:43 AM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: Comments May 12 Agenda

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Regarding the Parklets

The advisory team on this committee are the very same people who either get paid to promote Paso Robles or have businesses in the downtown area and will profit from parklets. A sly move which will not go unnoticed..No residents without businesses.

From: Carole <vinnie40@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: For 5/12/21 meeting/ Comments on parklets

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello,

I may not be able to call in tomorrow with my comments due to a medical appointment so I would like to send them here.

We as a restaurant group feel very strongly towards keeping the parklets long term, at least 3 - 5 years. We all lost a lot last year and are very grateful to be still be operating but have a lot of ground to make up. I know there are voices that seem to think that in June when restrictions are lifted there will be a magic wand and we all go back to normal but that is not the case. First of all, even if we can go back to 100% seating, the guests are not comfortable sitting as close as they used to. With the parklets, we maintain a smaller version of distancing that feels comfortable for our guests while maintaining the amount of seating we previously provided. Second, it will take more than 6 months to make up for the amount of revenue we lost in the past year. Also, the community wants the parklets based on 2 surveys that have circulated; the one from the Chamber and the one from Main Street.

We as a group have addressed many of the points that have been a concern.

For Revenue; we would like to propose a \$750 - \$800 per space permit fee per year that we are willing to pay for the use of the parking spaces. Next, 2.5% of the sales tax goes to the city. We have done calculations based on that 2.5%. Restaurants vary in size, price and the percentage of seating each restaurant has in their parklet along with varying hours of operation and days open. That said, we have a range of \$25,000.00 - \$50,000.00 per year per parklet, just in sales tax revenue. Rough calculations are that depending on the restaurant, each parking space could provide \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per year, per parking space. As I have mentioned before, regardless of what the state directs us to do in June, people are not going to want to sit as close as they did pre pandemic which I have seen over and over in the past couple of weeks. People still want to sit outdoors for safety. Therefore, if I cannot seat as close indoors as I previously have, I will lose seating if the parklets are eliminated. And then the city will lose that tax revenue.

Buy in; the Main Street survey had close to 1300 responses which were overwhelming in favor of keeping them. This is a big deal, I think. The community wants the parklets.

Aesthetics; We are willing to adhere to design standards the city will propose. We plan to make them beautiful and add to the vibrance of the downtown area.

Lastly, parking; we have identified replacement parking spaces within 2 - 3 blocks from the restaurants with parklets. Plus we will all find a place to designate for drop off if there are people who are unable to walk a block or two.

Thank you so much for listening!

Thanks,

Carole MacDonal
Owner/Managing Partner
Il Cortile Ristorante/La Cosecha Bar and Restaurant
805-226-0300 / 805-237-0019
310-717-1414 (cell)
ilcortileristorante.com
lacosechabr.com

From: Gretchen LeMiere <gretchen@taste2900.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:01 PM

To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>

Subject: Parklets

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello City of Paso Parking Commission,

First off thank you so much for all of the support that you have granted our local business community during this past year. We at Taste Craft Eatery have been so thankful to have our wonderful parklet, it absolutely SAVED our business. BUT we still need some more help.

We are one of the newest restaurants in downtown Paso and we love being here. We want to survive this last year and enjoy decades of serving our local community as well as the influx of tourists that come to our wonderful area to enjoy all that we have to offer. In order to achieve this we absolutely need to keep the additional outdoor seating. Customers come in all shapes and sizes as well as all comfort levels. We have many that would have no problem cramming into a busy indoor space however we have even more that still want to be outdoors in the spaces that have been deemed safer throughout the pandemic. I do not see this mindset changing any time soon as is noticeable just by walking around and seeing many still. masking outdoors even though the outdoor mask mandate is no longer in effect.

Beyond the pandemic I have had so many customers compliment the abundance of outdoor dining throughout Paso and how much they absolutely love it and hope that it never goes away. We have beautiful weather and a beautiful town that we should continue to allow everyone to enjoy! Many cities throughout the US have very successful downtown areas that include limited vehicle traffic. I just returned from Colorado and enjoyed Larimer Square in Denver as well as Pearl Street in Boulder both of which have no vehicle traffic, a vibrant atmosphere and an influx of individuals generating tax dollars for their local economy. When done right we can turn the downtown into even more of a draw than it already is!

I do suggest that we eliminate the temporary look of the parklets, San Luis Obispo has actually done a nice job with most of the downtown parklets, I recommend that tents be replaced with more permanent structures and that the plastic barriers also be replaced with something that is more visually pleasing and that adds to the aesthetic.

Parking...I know that parking is an issue. Honestly it is an issue everywhere that has a vital downtown. Sometimes change is hard to embrace for folks but I am sure that solutions can be found. Perhaps a trolley or a western themed stagecoach or horse drawn transit from off site parking lot would be a great addition to our downtown! I realize I went rogue on that one but I am confident that solutions can be realized.

--

Gretchen LeMiere

TASTE! craft eatery

2900 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo

810 11th St., Paso Robles

805.200.2978 phone

Thoughtfully crafted eats since 1999. Brick & Mortar Est. 2013

Open daily from 11am-10pm. Hope to see you soon and often!

Visit us online at www.taste2900.com

From Norma Moye at Main Street:

Parklets are welcome – make them permanent but more cohesive looking, the tents look bad. Parklets look very festive at night and customers enjoy them. Restaurants are working on a plan for longer-term parklets to keep the downtown vibrant.

From: Cristina Averseng <crespeou@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:00 PM

To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>

Subject: Parklets

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

I understand there is a meeting tomorrow with the parking committee discussing the future of the downtown parklets. I will not be able to call in to the meeting but would like to have my comments made to the committee..they are as follows:

1. The downtown restaurants, collectively, agreed to pay the City \$750/800 per year per space for rent on City property.
2. From our CA State sales tax, 2.5% goes to the City of Paso Robles...which when we collectively did the math, is between \$25K-\$100K annually.
3. All downtown restaurants plan and want to adhere to a look and feel that will enhance our downtown and give it a European flavor.
4. All of the restaurants have identified parking as it exists now, within 2 to 3 blocks of our restaurants, we all have drop off areas in front of the restaurant for those that need assistance.

With all this being said, I cannot believe the the City would not want our revenue, enhance our downtown and have to locals and tourists enjoy our beautiful downtown area. If the parklets go away, so does the the revenue and continued fighting the parking with not much joy to the locals.

I urge to to talk positively to the Council to keep the parklets for 3-5 years and reap all the benefits they bring to our beautiful downtown

Sincerely

Cristina Averseng

Paso Terra

805 2274100

Downtown Parking Advisory Commission 05-12-21 Public Comments:

Agenda Item 4 – Senior Permits

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat McMahan <pfmcmahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: Senior Parking Program

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

I understand you will be meeting on May 12th regarding the Senior Parking Permit Program. I would love to attend but will be out of town. I do have a question/suggestion that I think could have a positive effect on the program.

Why not limit the program to Paso Robles seniors only. After all, locals are, by far, the ones that are supporting our downtown businesses the most.

Limiting the program to just Tuesday is a joke! You might as well just cancel the entire program if you limit it to one day a week. AND, why are you suggesting Tuesday? Did someone flip a coin?

Thank you and I look forward to a response.

Patrick McMahan

A Paso Robles resident for over 60 years!

From: Dale Hofmann <DaleHofmann@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: Senior parking

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

We purchased our annual parking pass in good faith.

We think it should be honored in good faith.

We purchased it for the convenience, not to get out of paying parking fees.

Barbara Hofmann

357 Partridge

Paso Robles, CA 93446

From: V. Young <vayoung1@peoplepc.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: Proposed changes to the current Senior Parking Permit program

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

To Parking Advisory Commission,

Seriously? Who the hell came up with this crazy idea?!?!? Do you actually expect the seniors in this community to believe that 20% Senior Permit Use would produce a Net Loss to the City of \$227,318 in 5 years. By the way, didn't the whole Downtown Parking program get sold to the citizens of Paso Robles as a way to motivate the employees of the restaurants and stores around the park area to park away from their businesses in order to allow customers to park there instead? The fact that the city's financial planning didn't seem to involve bottom line cost vs profit, is not the problem of the residents of our city, much less, the seniors citizens. That mistake is on you - figure out a way to either pay for this whole debacle or get rid of it completely, considering the initial reason for this program has been solved - the employees are now have access to parking elsewhere.

Valerie Young

From: Linda Colwell <klcolwell@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>
Subject: senior permits

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

I would like to make several comments in preparation for the 5/12/21 Parking Advisory meeting.

This is a simple program made complicated by over reaching the simple facts of use.

A person would not be allowed to park in a permitted employee spot even if it was vacant but that is not true for the use of a senior permit.

The senior has to find an available parking spot just like the general public. Therefore, a senior permit will not restrict the availability to the general public.

This also exposes the miscalculations of loss of revenue. Your figures are based on projecting that while a senior is utilizing a free parking place, that place would be filled by a paying patron, thus showing a loss of revenue. You have no way to project accurately that as a fact. In fact, it is unlikely. I drove through downtown today between the hours of 11 AM and twelve

noon. There were many parking places open. We know in actuality that the only real parking crunch is on the weekend. The use of the parking and the parklets are at a minimum until weekends. Which also points to the fact that the parklets are absorbing a great deal of prime downtown parking 24/7 with limited hourly use.

A senior parking privilege (permit implies reserved parking) was not driven by the price but by the desire to have easy access to parking. As far as your consultant suggesting that a large number of seniors have used the kiosk or apps and that assumes they are comfortable is not necessarily so. The lack of ease of parking in the reason cited over and over by seniors.

Finally, there is the thought of integrity. The City Council approved the senior parking program. The minutes of the previous discussion by the Parking Advisory group was available to city staff and Council. One would assume each branch had done their homework and voted responsibly for the program. A little clean up of policy may be warranted but if a vote means anything to this Board or to the Council, this program should remain in place. Close to seven hundred seniors want to believe in the process and that they matter to the downtown merchants and to the city.

Regards,

Linda

From: Sally Reynolds <sallyreynolds532@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:43 AM

To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>

Subject: Comments May 12 Agenda

Regarding Senior Passes

The abuse was rampant on the senior passes. Since the senior applications came with Terms and Conditions

that were not considered at all before checks were cashed, why can't the abusive passes be sent a letter and a refund of their \$5.00. The letter should state they did not meet the terms and conditions?

I volunteer to separate the abusive applications for action by the city.

By canceling these parking passes, a lot of parking would be available. To let the abusers use the downtown

spaces for an entire year without addressing it kind of makes a fool out of our city.

This is an option worth considering for city council.

Sally Reynolds

805-237-8524 Home

408-858-0114 Cell

From Norma Moye at Main Street:

Parking meters are not working – seniors should get permits. Downtown is slower, nothing but complaints at Main Street about paid parking.

From: Keith Entwistle <keithent007@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:55 PM

To: Parking <Parking@prcity.com>

Subject: City needs to honor all parking passes.

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

The city continues to struggle with a parking program that was not well thought out or implemented. The only one benefitting from this program is the consultant. Amazing that she can bring up potential cost of the senior program as a large loss but nobody including this council brings up that this program is a \$1,000,000 loser already. You have been convinced to have bad money chase more bad money.

In this case you should have anticipated how many seniors would sign up. It is a very aged population here. To now change the program would just add to the council's reputation as being pro tourism and anti resident. Do the right thing for once.

Keith Entwistle
