

Meeting Summary

Downtown Parking Stakeholder Advisory Committee (DSAC)

Thursday, October 20, 2016
City Hall | City Council Chambers
710 NW Wall Street Bend, Oregon



CITY OF BEND

5:32 p.m. DSAC Meeting

Roll Call: Karen LeTourneau, Monte Payne, Brett Yost, Shantelle Flick, Marie Matthews, Kevin English, Parry Thomas, Jeff Huey, Serena Dietrich, Doug Watson, and Tom Fisher.

Staff: Carolyn Eagan

- 1. Introductions/Approve meeting notes (5 min.)** Carolyn
Meeting summary approved.
- 2. Community Input (10 min.)**
None
- 3. Supplemental Data Findings - Permits (20 min.)** Rick/Owen R.
Want to come back with initial data strategy draft. There will be 3 meetings on strategies.

Wanted more detail about permits and garage. Done through data mining.

471 on-street permits in circulation for employees. 94 for residential use. \$50/month within downtown core. Free if outside of core. Peak occupancy 76% with 197 permits observed. Permit - 2.89 vehicle trips per stall. 2 hour stalls - 4.39 vehicle trips per stall. Lost capacity is 1.50 trips per stall/per day. Comment made may not be the most desirable locations. 210 vehicles moving to evade. 4,700 vehicle trips observed.

Off street - 547 Parking Garage spaces. 389 permits issued. 350 stalls set aside for permit or long term use. 68% peak of garage use. At 3 - 4 pm, 175 empty. 49% use garage less than 2 hours. Average stay 3 ½ hours for all.

104 Newport Lot, 86 permits issued. 41%, 6 - 7 pm (after permit hours). Lot not well known.

Heat map downtown core is highly utilized. In red. East sector under utilized. South section – permits.

Did we get questions answered? Yes.

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4. Additional Data Requests (10 min.)

Carolyn/Rick

- Employee survey

Legitimate scoped project. Do you have any burning questions regarding employees that you need answered before we create strategies.

Karen – what is experience with employee surveys? Phill – opinion survey and other statistically valid. First cheaper and easier to do but only based on responses of those who responded. Can be effective? But first need to know what you want to learn from employees. Who are they, work times, travel patterns. Front end survey vs. back end. After have begun to think about strategies. Want to get sense of how employees would react to specific strategies considering.

Rick – can also get information from coffee klatches, meetings, etc.

Tom - ask employers what they are hearing from their employees Comment made that may not want to hear answers directly from employees if can't or don't want to implement what they are commenting on/proposing.

Karen – also feels that better to check in with employers/business owners.

Doug – in end are trying to influence human behavior. Would be a waste to implement if no buy in.

Owen – be careful not to have survey shoot down a good strategy.

Rick – come back to this. High on radar. Bring up again in November. Good information but maybe premature.

Anne – safety, cost, was mentioned.

- **Neighborhood Data Collection**

Agreed to not do additional data collection in neighborhoods now. Can recognize issues as part of strategy recommendation. City may need to do studies on neighborhoods adjacent to downtown.

5. DSAC Brainstorm – Strategy Solutions (40 min)

Group

Your turn to talk.

High level – summer peak season. Parking behavior doesn't vary much between two seasons. Key findings: Very high areas of use in downtown core. Recurring pattern on east side. Opportunity in off-street system. Mirror Ponds lots consistently constrained. Karen mentioned lots of employees park there. Parking plan at end of day – finite supply on street. Need a plan that is a change from current.

How are you feeling about what you have learned so far?

Monte - areas to east not very desirable. Drop pricing.

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Karen - Mirror Pond – too cheap. Higher cost and limit times.

Kevin - issue of safety - Create a perceived safer environment. Start pay immediately from beginning. Will discourage those that loiter in cars. Also extend pay system longer to something like 8 pm.

Brett - does garage have constraints on price based on funding source of garage?

Carolyn probably. Will check. Brett instead of dropping should just raise price in desirable lots. Cohesive strategy. Premium spaces at a premium rate, less desirable, less price. Monte - not too expensive that they go to neighborhoods.

Marie asked if there were any plans to develop the Mirror Pond lots. Carolyn said not at this time. If additional lots, structured parking as part of larger developments. Mixed use.

Doug - doesn't care if on street or off street. Designation not important. Location and proximity more important. Subdivision is artificial. Pricing irrespective of on or off. Use price to get people out of core. Tom - there is a limit where price is too high and can price self out of market. Will people use if too far away? Don't set up system that discourages people from coming downtown. Kevin – must be financial viability – have to make hard choices for this to work. Has failed in past. If don't raise revenue, then won't work. Brett - if have a parking problem, then need to wean people from the idea that parking is free. Maybe over time. Big cities don't have problem. Is expensive and people still frequent.

Rick said to be sensitive to pricing, motivation. What is heat map telling you?

Brett - are we alright where we are? Do we have issues? Doug – look at in context as more than downtown as downtown businesses have competition with other places in Bend. Both in terms of cost but also in availability. Karen – equipment expensive if decide to charge for all parking. Monte – who is customer? He thinks is tourists and diners at night. He said is a tourist attraction. They would be willing to pay. Phill mentioned that spring and summer data is similar. So not necessarily only tourists. Kevin – variable pricing network based on seasons. Tourists. Brett – does not agree that downtowns have died due to parking pricing. Thinks that people are interested in walkability attraction.

Parry – wants to make sure walkability is enjoyable. Mindset perception. Educate community. Viable. Vibrant is good.

Rick – is there a problem? Where we have problems, how do we solve? South end, we know we have a problem and we know what the cause is. Is this fair assumption? What do we do to fix. Kevin- what he is hearing from neighbors – want a parking permit program – Kansas, Riverside, Congress. Want signed 2 hour or permit. But not sure if only residential permit.

Do we have too many employees parking on street? How do we make more parking available? Karen – but wants a spot where employees can park. Thinks employee parking is being used properly with permits.

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Would 100 evaders help with downtown core?

Phill – if employees are parking in downtown core, then that needs to change. If yes, then need place for employees to park. Kevin – parking garage is centrally placed. Move employees to Newport or east zone and not parking garage. Monte – employees can be educated. Provide incentive to move to outer areas. Make those areas cheaper. Karen – says won't work if not free at least for certain employees. Newport area too far for her in terms of safety.

More incentives and options needed.

Rick - reminder that have 565 people have bought permits. If free, then would be a constraint. Rick. Zoned pricing structure with discounts based on wages. Brett – under-utilized private spots. Should look into pursuing. Shared use as a strategy.

Shantelle - Employees should not be pushed to one spot. May be too far from work spot especially in terms of safety.

Kevin - mindset shift that comes with time. Marie, transit would be a good option but needs to exist. Karen - shuttle to downtown like river shuttle, a continuously running shuttle. Have to have a location and be economically feasible. Will eventually have to be an option. Maybe tie into Old Mill. Transit must be feasible.

Rick asked about final thoughts.

Will take all of these comments, study them and take into account and modify strategy consideration.

Tom – planning for future must be taken into account. Will expansion be downtown or will be outside downtown core. Dealing with long range have not yet looked at.

Brett – mentioned that self driving cars are being pushed at a federal level.

Rick – also Uber. Can go over technology at next meeting.

6. Community Input (5 min.)

Carolyn

Mike Walker – keep in mind that easiest plan works best. Trying to get visitors to park in certain places is harder than employees. Capacity on east side – he has had conversations with owners, they are not going to give up their spaces.

Terence – entice people to get permit. Currently must move 750 feet before can re-park. Maybe change code to once.

7. Next meeting (2 min.)

Group

Next steps review document – does it make sense? Karen – are we seriously considering going to paid parking? Rick responded that way down list as an option.

Timing of meeting. Keep to 2 hours. Rick. 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

8. Adjourned at 7:28 pm.

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