

Meeting Summary – Meeting 9
Downtown Parking Stakeholder Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Thursday, February 16, 2017



CITY OF BEND

5:30 p.m. DSAC Meeting

Roll Call: Sarah Jordan, Karen LeTourneau, Monte Payne, Brett Yost, Shantelle Flick, Marie Matthews, Kevin English, Parry Thomas, Serena Dietrich, DeeDee Cochran, Doug Watson, James Lewis, and Tom Fisher.

Staff: Carolyn Eagan, Kathy Montgomery

1. Introductions/Approve meeting notes

Minutes from November and January meetings approved.

2. Community Input

None at this time.

3. Finalize DSAC Strategy Recommendations

DeeDee explained why she is so passionate. Wants to bring up some of her concerns and see if they are addressed in the strategies since she was appointed after meetings had started. Customers are mad because they are getting parking tickets. She already spends a lot on permits. She wants a message to tell customers when they are mad or asking questions about parking. Rick: part of the answer is the customer first message. Can create an elevator speech that businesses can tell customers. Kevin asked question if customers are aware of parking restrictions. Karen mentioned that recent tickets might be related to weather and snow issues. She had customers who assumed that due to weather, parking regulations were not enforced and they received citations. Is a communication/education issue. It was noted by Carolyn that merchant can contact Diamond Parking with license number to extend 2 additional hours. Also Mirror Pond lots with new meters can accommodate longer stays. Strategy 9 relates to Customer First. In addition technology can help.

Rick wants to know if members feel that strategies are workable, what is cost, how to educate. Marie: Strategy 13, maybe add can stay longer. Marie: older people don't use garage due to safety issues. Need places where can park longer. Maybe add a reference to Strategy 21 in text of Strategy 13.

Carolyn noted that the Mirror Pond lots length of stay and pricing can be flexible because the technology is already in place. The plan as written gives her time. Meters are very expensive. Question regarding shorter time stays. Rick said was supposed to be listed in Strategy 13. Will add. Establish an exceptions process for establishing high turn-over stalls within base zone.

Add to Strategy 21 an additional bullet point. If pricing is implemented, reevaluate time stays. Without pricing is difficult to do. Data shows that majority of cars are parked less

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than 90 minutes. So 2 hours for majority is enough. For minority of people, what is education program, options? If go to 3 hours, then until technology catches up, will create problems.

Carolyn says that with absence of management there is no way to deal with problems that people are bringing up. Strategies and timing gives her time to meet with employers to understand what they need and to educate. Changing habits takes time. Test one or two things and then evaluates effects. Also doesn't have money to do at this time. Garage was full during snow events. Roof was closed due to snow and all permits were valid there. Terence of Diamond said normally there are empty spaces everyday. He is available to talk.

Karen mentioned that customers needs to take some responsibility. When she goes to a new city, she reads signs and educates self.

Monte asked about private stalls. Rick said City has to get owners to buy into downtown vision. Can DBBA come up with a program for the extended stay parkers?

Karen said she never wants customers to leave store even if it is to put an extended pass on their vehicle. Worried about relying on parking garage as cure all.

Kevin mentioned that strategies document is a high level document. We are getting down into minutia. Phill said it is a good time to test strength of document with real world examples. Helps guide adding more detail into documents.

Rick asked if ready to take the first step forward? Yet continue to have these discussions at minute level.

Brett said that private seems odd if there is no pricing of free parking. Are we undermining ourselves?

Rick: want to do everything prior to pricing parking. Carolyn: #8. Create a cohesive pricing policy. Reset pricing for all day employee parking because that is a big issue and will have a big impact. We get to define core.

Marie: these types of questions are the very questions that are going to be asked by employers and public. Wants specific suggestions listed.

Tom: becomes a public document. Needs explanations along with it. Very vague. Is bothersome to him. Get a big reaction which causes problems.

Rick said we want a high level document. If give too much, won't read.

Sarah mentioned that one thing that had been talked about but is not here is loading zones. Answer was that is more purview of parking manager. Outside of scope.

Monte mentioned that it is an ongoing process. Will be implemented, evaluated. Is a work in progress.

Anne said she heard what Tom was saying. Have key talking points. Have details. Education, step by step process. Slow change that is community driven.

Kevin asked if Carolyn feels that the document is clear enough that can work from. Carolyn said yes. She is very happy and comfortable with document, the order and draft timing. She feels document is clear enough to work with Council.

Marie thinks roll out will work this way. Reevaluation at each step.

Rick asked if anything should be taken out. April 5th is work session. Are people comfortable taking from red to black.

Marie: #26 change order. Put transit first, park and ride and then new parking sites.

Doug: Put loading zones into exception process. #13 - Provision for electric vehicles. James asked what that does for parking capacity.

Rick said is more an infrastructure improvement issue. Could try to create a bullet point around 23. Explore options. Phill this is about managing parking supply. Monte mentioned exploration of alternatives like having lodging places have a bike available to guests. Rick said that is not a charge of parking district, more a part of TDM and sustainability plans.

DeeDee asked if taxi services had been covered. Will be part of exceptions process. Taxi lane in bar district would be nice.

Carolyn: regarding EV or tour buses or oversized, DPAC can look at all this. Part of management program not management plan. Sarah mentioned that this is not a bible. Sees that as a hurdle. That people see it as such. Carolyn said need to educate key people. Work with Council is ongoing. Marie: people will want to see that we are thinking of all options. Carolyn likes adding: Explore EV, oversize vehicles. Between 23 and 24. How accommodating different types of vehicles.

Parry: 26: what does existing parking supply becomes limited mean? Rick suggested striking red language, becomes a flag. Marie: do we want transit listed that late. Rick said is a big infrastructure deal with huge costs. Phill suggested pulling two apart, auto vs transit/walking. Carolyn said won't happen for two to three years realistically.

Tom: existing stalls, not talking about expanding. Best strategies to make best use of existing. Anne said getting right car to right spot. What happens then? What is needed?

Carolyn – we have places to move employees in a short period of time. We have oversold permit areas. Data shows us that we have stalls available. Have capacity in next two years to make changes and make a difference.

Phill said that we know is a draft. City Council may tweak and modify. We have another opportunity to tweak. Do you trust process? Is this a strong enough draft document to present to City Council?

Brett said he is feeling less comfortable. He feels like could just go to pricing up front. Thinks we are avoiding what is obvious. We are preserving a subsidy that people don't want to give up.

Rick asked if group is comfortable taking first step forward. Plan like this can get each to where they want to go. Starts with management, guiding principles. Allows to go step by step and let community see.

Doug mentioned that downtown does not exist in a vacuum. He said lots of downtowns have died.

Kevin mentioned the reality is we don't have money to put in meters.

Karen had a comment about moving to evade (18). Safety net move but not move to evade. Unlimited as long as move farther than 750'. Carolyn said idea is to simply. Use of zones. Don't park in green or blue a second time.

Parry said he is ready to move forward. Good starting document. There is room enough for good creative implementation.

Parry made a motion for approval. He said downtown is special place. Is viable. Need to protect and get moving. Motion to approve and move forward. Marie seconded. Most in favor except Monte opposed. Brett said he is ambivalent. Likes but has concerns too. DeeDee felt concerned but after talking does feel better.

Executive summary will be done to set context.

4. Briefing: Formal Plan Adoption Process

Carolyn thanked the group for commitment and time spent. She said it has made her job possible, not easy, but possible.

Next is hard part. Moving from final set of recommendations to implementation. Has always stalled in past. Document will be all in black. 6 weeks of meeting with employers and property owners.

April 5th to Council, need champions from others coming forward and supporting to Council. Asking for introductions. Also as she comes across challenges, she will ask suggestions.

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Once Council says can take to public. Anne has a plan. Need to educate. Customer first. Capacity then triggers. 4 weeks for public outreach. To Council May 3rd. Document on May 3rd will be very thick. Presented and hopefully approved before budget is adopted. Reason for sequencing.

Will not go to public until after approved by Council. Anne will talk about process.

5. Discussion: Next Steps for Public Engagement

Anne gave overview of public engagement and next steps.

Public involvement goals.

Public involvement so far.

DSAC role.

Next steps.

Stakeholder audiences.

Areas for community input.

Timeline.

Key talking points. Anne will send to Carolyn with one addition. Step by Step.

No March meeting.

At April 20th meeting approve editorial content.

Next steps: Council first and then seek input from larger community stakeholders. Businesses, property owners, employees, DBBA, residents, media, Bend Parks and Rec, event groups, taxis, cyclists, accessibility community, Cycle Pub, Neighborhood Associations, Cascade East transit. Any businesses that have employees who access businesses when dark. Carolyn said she has gathered data on restaurants/businesses in regards to safety and location of routes.

Larger community has not yet been engaged. Customers. James noted the distinction between residents and tourists. Mentioned Visit Bend. Question asked if there is another group we need to talk to.

Marie asked if we need to engage with OSU. Will check in with their parking manager.

Keeping it a high level. On board with strategies and what we need. Themes, educate, Step-by-step process. Take steps and evaluate. Chance to revise after receive input from public.

Monte mentioned Riverwest neighborhood. Address their concerns. Messaging.

Phill: take care of downtown but also adjacent neighborhoods.

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Brett: what effort is there to educate community? He said they could bring up something that is against best practices and strategies. Anne said we need to educate. Do what you can in sharing your knowledge.

Karen would like to know how paid parking would be received. Rick said would need to word the question right.

As get more ideas let us know. Time line is in document Ann handed out.
Series of stations at public meeting. Would love to have committee members there.

If contacted by media, refer to Carolyn.

6. Community Input

None

7. Next meeting

April 20th.

8. Adjourn: 7:45 pm

Draft