

Downtown Leavenworth Parking Study Community Open House Meeting Notes May 2, 2018

The Meeting began with introductions of the Parking Study Consultants, Mr. Rick William and Mr. Owen Ronchelli and City Council Members, and members of the Parking Study Stakeholders Group within the audience. Rick Williams then proceeded with his presentation that outlined the Parking Study work and findings to date:

- Outline of Scope Tasks that were included within the Study
- Summary of Guiding Principles
- A review of the process for collecting data and the Data Findings
- Initial Considerations that will be considered in developing the Parking Strategy

The full presentation is available on the City's website at: http://cityofleavenworth.com/col-assets/uploads/2018/05/Public-Open-House-Presentation-5_2-18-v1.pdf

At the conclusion of the presentation, comments were taken from the public:

An initial clarifying question was asked regarding the thought process behind selecting a busy summer day versus a parking count on a major festival weekend or off season count. Mr. Williams stated the Stakeholders Group selected the area and days, he also noted that parking plans don't often start with addressing event parking which is a different strategy than daily parking demands. An off season data collection would provide additional information in calculating overall parking use.

The following is a list of additional comments that were made either provided as a statement or a recommendation to address parking:

- Parking and traffic should not only include vehicles but should include pedestrian access and especially looking at crosswalks on Hwy. 2.
- The plan for the City should be comprehensive and include a different type of growth that would require less parking within the City.
- Do not add more parking but other transportation elements like bicycle parking, much more efficient.
- The plan should encourage no parking in the neighborhoods.
- Provide a resident parking pass with time or day limitations for all downtown public lots.
- Use Lodging Tax funding, less on promotions and advertising, and reallocate to construct a parking garage.
- If there is space available in the down seasons, lots should be available for people to use without costs or with a permit.
- The unregulated time of parking on most of the downtown streets is a major issue and why so many employees park on the street and force visitors to park in the neighborhoods.

- The City should develop a vision for a “walking city” where preference for pedestrian movement is valued above vehicle use.
- The “Shared Parking” program will not work, and the numbers reflecting open capacity of parking areas which include the private businesses/hotels is misleading.
- The parking enforcement is very inconsistent.
- Several comments identifying that parking, or lack thereof, is an issue for attracting and retaining employees for downtown businesses.
- Any changes to parking regulation or management must provide for an employee parking alternative, you shouldn’t just push them off the street without providing a solution.
- Parking is a tourism issues, the solution should not be imposed on residents but on tourists.
- Should consider remote parking areas and then providing bus passes to shuttle visitors into town.
- The parking plan should take into account for the redesign of Front Street as a walking promenade in the near future.
- Several recommendations on building a parking garage:
 - Add one or two levels over the lower lot area (P2) ASAP.
 - The City should look into partnering with the private sector to develop P1 as both more commercial space and parking.
 - The City should use the financial asset of the current parking area (P1/P2) to leverage the buildout of a parking garage.

Meeting notes were reviewed by the Parking Stakeholders Group on June 20, 2018.