

Parking Advisory Committee

City of Leavenworth Conference Room

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

May 23, 2019

Agenda Items:

Vice Chair Anne Hessburg began the meeting at 3:00 PM. All members were in attendance except for Sharon Waters and Doc Elsea, due to his resignation.

Kayla Applebay was in attendance as the Chamber of Commerce Representative in place of Doc Elsea.

Mia Bretz nominated Mike Bedard as Committee Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor. Mike Bedard nominated Anne Hessburg as Committee Chairperson. All were in favor.

Meeting Notes Review:

Joel Walinski provided a brief overview of the format of the Committee meeting and the level of detail that will be available in the meeting notes. There were no corrections to the May 2, 2019 meeting notes.

Mr. Torstein Lindhein is a Leavenworth resident from Norway. He attended the meeting to share some thoughts and/or ideas for parking structures, based on parking concepts from Norway and other European Counties. He spoke to a “flower house”, which would be a 2-3 level structure, filled with flowers, decorated in the Bavarian Theme; the “flower house” should be located in the center of town and used for parking, as well as a tourist attraction. He also suggested that parking should be abandoned on Front Street on the weekends.

1. Resignation Doc Elsea

Joel Walinski stated that Mr. Doc Elsea has resigned from his position on the Committee. Chamber of Commerce Director Nancy Smith confirmed that he has also resigned his position on the Chamber of Commerce Board, due to personal reasons.

2. Bylaws Review:

- a. **Bylaws Draft Review:** Joel Walinski addressed some of the changes that have been incorporated into the Bylaws; four members make up a quorum, decisions shall be made by a voice vote – not necessarily a consensus, and staggered term lengths. He asked that the members review the final document, prior to approval by the full Committee.

3. Downtown Strategic Parking Management Plan, 2019

- a. **Identification of Priorities:** Ann Hessburg addressed the Parking Strategy Priorities document. Joel Walinski noted that he received comments from Sharon

<p><u>Members:</u> Michael Bedard Lyman/Jesse Boyd Mia Bretz Jean Dawson Kayla Applebay *Anne Hessburg Sharon Waters</p>
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Waters and the Boyd's. Committee members individually shared their priorities and stated their reasoning.

Mike Bedard stated that he wants to see a cohesive plan with no redundancy in efforts; in order of priority, numbers 3 & 2, 4, 5, 10, and 14. He would like to combine 14 & 15.

Anne Hessburg stated that she would like to free up downtown parking for visitors, as it is currently filling up with employees; in order of priority, numbers 10, 4, 24, 21, and 5. She would also like to encourage nonvehicular parking and using the tourism base to pay for parking.

Mia Bretz looked at what can be accomplished this year, and she would like to see staff available to implement the strategies; in order of priority, numbers 2, 5, combine 14 & 15, 18, and 21.

Jean Dawson stated that she would like to see parking spaces open up quickly; in order of priority, numbers 14, 10, 8, 21, and 24.

Committee members discussed employee parking, the need to find a place for employees to park, and shuttling employees.

Joel Walinski stated that the Boyd's have one priority; they would like to move in the direction of anything that leans toward time restrictions on the downtown parking and moving toward paid parking for on-street stalls; in order of priority, numbers 14 and 15. He stated Sharon Waters order of priorities; numbers 14, 19, 18, 13, and 25.

Kayla Applebay noted the good ideas, but would like more bike accessibility and a parking garage; in order of priority, numbers 25, 26, 14 & 15 combined, 10, and 22.

There was discussion of creating a "parking fund"; current code language does not require all businesses to provide parking; implement a parking fund when the use of the business changes; business owners may not want to participate without seeing substantial parking improvements in process; may be viewed as a tax on tourists; parking garage is not necessarily a City responsibility – should be funded through private business.

Joel Walinski addressed the highest priorities; number 14, timed on-street parking and 10, employee parking programs. Discussion of enforcement, citations, consistent signage, striping, additional resources, 3-hour timed parking enforcement is different than 5-hour.

Joel Walinski asked Committee members to walk downtown and talk to people about bike parking; need to look at bike racks and capacity, convenience of bike racks, and relocation of bike racks.

Discussion of the end goal of the Committee; focus on turnover and available spaces, long term planning, and work in tandem with Downtown Steering Committee.

Nancy Smith addressed the Parking Study and noted that private parking lots were used in the study, which she believes is flawed. The study was completed in order to create a partnership plan; employees were intended to use the private lots. Discussion of temporary parking lots, not using temporary lots for long term planning, and getting the employees into their own parking area in order to see how much space is available downtown.

4. Determine future meeting dates and agenda items

Chairperson Anne Hessburg addressed the agenda items for the next meeting, the future meeting dates, and homework assignment. She said that the Committee will focus on strategies that can be implemented in the short term.

Members agreed to meeting dates as the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2019 at 3:00 PM; this topic will have further discussion at the next meeting.

Homework: Bike parking location needs and current usage; potential or relocate additional bike parking; look at current signage and identify signage improvement opportunities; identify locations for timed parking – 3-hour and 5-hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Z. Cragun
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City of Leavenworth