



PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 7, 2022 - MINUTES

1. Topics for Committee Discussion

The committee focused on City Council Priorities; specifically Priority 5.

Priority #5: Manage parking supply through strategies that optimize supply over time and consider the impact of future development, changes in transportation habits/multi-modal transportation and the use of technologies. *Enhance promotion of the Downtown Parking Deck to the public; including residents and visitors.*

P. Messplay stated that promoting the Downtown Parking Deck will make it easier for people to come down and shop at business. Relieve pressure from street parking and have more people come down and have people shop at businesses. Promoting the parking deck downtown may also get employees off that are using on-street parking, these parking spaces could be used by patrons of adjacent businesses. Part of the strategy should be to get employees to park in the parking garage to assist with this stated B. Goldberg. B. Black expressed her concerns about safety from employees walking out with cash from their business if the focus was to have employees' park in the parking deck. Restaurant employees are utilizing the buddy system, and some restaurant owners insist their employees' park on the street near the restaurant due to safety issues.

Sergeant Lynch stated that the camera system in the parking deck could be improved. This would help identify those that cause issues within the deck. For example those who "peel out." Sergeant (S) Lynch also noted there are situations where people are trapped in the garage. There is no way to manually lift the gate. Additional suggestions would be to have more lighting in the garage. The Police can do a CPTED of the facility. This assessment would offer more suggestions to add more lighting, painting the walls white, how to get people to get out of the garage, wayfinding, etc. Wayfinding signs are important because if you are new coming to the City, they are no wayfinding signs to get to the parking deck. Safety tips could also be placed in the elevator and parking garages. There is nothing directing people to the Sophia Street garage.

Note: How do we create a positive experience in the deck? What to do when the garage is not working, beyond contacting City staff.

B. Goldberg stated that the lot behind Caroline Street that lot is typically full. He agreed with S. Lynch on the adding wayfinding Signage.

S. Lynch believes that if municipal lot was parking garage if it would be utilized more than it is.

B. Black asked about where the revenue went for funds for the parking garage. It was stated that the funding is going to the general fund. B. Black asked if the City should increase it (parking costs) to what the market demands. If the City wants to encourage FRED to be a walkable City, then she recommended that we increase the cost of parking.

P. Messplay stated that the goal is going to drive the pricing. However, as long as the City has vacant parking spaces it is going to be hard to boost the price when spaces are empty.



T. Duffy reminded the committee that there is no such thing as free parking (referencing the first 4 hours in the deck are free). Nothing is free. J. Jackson discussed some of the challenges in the parking deck, which did at one point included staffing. T. Duffy stated that to support staffing and other needs the City may want to identify how we can monetize that to help pay for the service of parking. Duffy also stated that with the relocation of the visitor center that may enhance the parking deck's visibility and drive more guests to utilize that space. Duffy agreed to look at ways of getting revenue. However, at this time he would be hesitant to make any changes due to the economic recovery from COVID.

A. Lynch stated that from his perspective it is easy to find parking in the City. People may not be able to park right in front of the location they want to go into; however, if a person does not mind walking a little it is easy to find a spot. Messplay stated that residents feel savvy and will circle the street. Parking is for people out of the downtown area.

A. Lynch. Recommended that the city install and publicize charging stations in the garage. Recommended that the City put it on a parking app. For the charging stations, people can pay for their own charging at these stations.

2. Staff Updates

B. Goldberg provided an update on Main Streets survey on 15-Minute Parking Signage Downtown. They received 27 responses, which included – keep all (4), remove (9), (9) – Decrease number, (2) increase, (3) move them around. The committee requested an update on the rest of the signage. Jamie said that Public works was waiting until after the survey for any additional changes/modifications. The need for River Rock – William Street 15-minute stop by the Bridal Shop was needed for canoe transport.

3. Old Business

J. Jackson provided an update on the Residential Parking Permit process. Jackson clearly identified that the structure of the City of Fredericksburg Parking Ordinance as it stands today has most of the information regarding the criteria. City staff is currently working on clarifying and updating the procedures and information for the public which may take a few months. The information will be shared with the committee once it is close to being finalized.

As a follow up to on the “Information on How to Obtain a Parking Permit” the City Transportation page will link to Police Department Information.

The City may also review and refine the standards and processes for parking decal requests for streets and neighborhoods.

4. New Business

The committee discussed parking around the auto body shop – Princess Anne and Hawk Street. S. Lynch stated that when the car is parked without tag. When PD pulls a report on the car, the car reports to nobody. S. Lynch stated that if the business parks someone's car on the street and they get a ticket then it's a Civil issue. S. Lynch stated that the City code has a 4 and 10-day tow log.

Based on the conversation with the committee, there needs to be a way to prevent this and tow immediately. To prevent cars being able to be stored on the street it is recommended that there be a Code change. If the vehicle has no tag, then it can be towed immediately.

5. Adjournment