



DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 11, 2012
Gebhard Meeting Room
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 a.m.

2) **ROLL CALL**

DPC MEMBERS

Matt LaBrie
Tom Williams
Eric Kelley
Bill Collyer
Gene McKnight
Trey Pinner
Krista Fritzen

Attendance

Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Browning Allen, Transportation, Streets and Parking Manager
Victor Garza, Parking /TMP Superintendent
Rebecca Jimenez, Parking Supervisor
Dion Tait, Parking Supervisor
Alison Jordan, Water Resources Supervisor
Madeline Ward, Water Resources Technician
Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Randy Rowse, City Council
Deborah Schwartz, Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

3) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2012**

Motion: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 13, 2012.

Made By: Bill Collyer **Second:** Gene McKnight

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: (Pinner)

5) **QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY REPORT: INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

M. Hamilton presented the occupancy survey for July through September, comparing 2012 to 2011.

T. Williams asked what steps staff is taking to direct traffic to the Granada Garage. V. Garza said that staff conducted a neighborhood meeting for input and placed signage around Lot 5 directing cars across State Street into the Granada Garage.

D. Schwartz asked if there are any over-flow parking agreements for the Helena Parking Lot, for example with the La Entrada Project. B. Allen said that La Entrada will be fully parked on site and there are no other agreements. T. Pinner commented that businesses are aware of the Helena Lot and employees are seeking parking in the Funk Zone.

K. Fritzen said that customers would like to park for longer periods of time in the Helena Lot. However, the 90 minute time limit pushes customers out of the Lot.

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E. Kelley asked staff what arrangements were made for the permit parkers in Lot 5. B. Allen said that the permit parkers will be allowed to park in any Downtown City Lot during the construction.

M. LaBrie asked staff for a more detailed report on the impact of Granada events on the surrounding lots.

G. McKnight commented that permit pricing seems to be unbalanced and he asked staff to look into current rates and opportunities for more utilization of the lots.

6) TRAIN STATION WATER WISE PROJECT: INFORMATIONAL ITEM

M. Ward presented an overview of the Water Wise Project and highlighted key points from the staff report.

M. LaBrie asked if Downtown Parking currently maintains the landscaping in the project areas. D. Tait confirmed that the Downtown Parking is responsible for the upkeep of the area through a contract with a landscape vendor.

T. Williams asked why only 2 of the 5 grass areas are being treated and he was concerned that there would be a noticeable contrast from the old and new plots. M. Ward said that because this project is a pilot program they chose an area that has a fair amount of foot traffic but at the same time less visible and out of the way of the day-to-day visitors. A. Jordan added that the materials are costly and staff would like to begin albeit slowly and cautiously to ensure the success of the project.

M. La Brie asked if staff would try for more plots if the bids for the project came back better than expected. A. Jordan said that staff wants to focus on the two plots, plus staff intends to use the current landscape contractor the Parking Program uses.

D. Schwartz mentioned that the Dennis Allen residential project planted Buffalo Grass and it looks great with low maintenance. A. Jordan said that currently the El Encanto Plant is testing both species presented to the Committee, but the Depot Project would be more visible and accessible to public. A. Jordan also mentioned that these species of grass are more natural in their cycle and there will be a golden coloring during the winter months.

M. LaBrie asked if staff anticipates any snags at the Historic Landmark Commission. A. Jordan said that the project is going on the Consent Calendar for HLC and more questions may be raised at the City's Integrated Pest Management Committee because of the use of Roundup.

E. Kelley asked if Roundup will be used continually on the grass. A. Jordan said no, the use of Roundup will be limited but necessary to prevent re-growth which may ruin the project. A. Jordan added that staff will not continue with the project if they are prohibited from using a small bit of Roundup. E. Kelley said that it is reasonable to permit a small amount of harsh landscaping to ensure a longer more sustainable grass in the future.

M. LaBrie asked which City department would be financially responsible to restore the area if the project failed. A. Jordan said that staff does not foresee a failure and the grass and landscaping work are guaranteed.

T. Pinner asked if there are any issues with the subterranean irrigation. M. Ward said that the City has used this method in several spots and there are no substantial problems. A. Jordan added that it is similar to a drip system and it has become widely used in the last several years.

Motion: To recommend that staff move forward with the Water Wise Project as described in the staff report.

Made By: Eric Kelley **Second:** Trey Pinner

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ONGOING PROJECTS/PROGRAMS: INFORMATION ITEM

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Oversight Board Recommendation

B. Allen informed the Committee that the Redevelopment Oversight Board recommended the transfer of all the formerly owned RDA parking lots to the City. At the next meeting, the Oversight Board will approve the minutes from the previous meeting and forward their recommendations to the State Department of Finance. B. Allen said that the entire Depot Lot campus will transfer to the City and the Parking Program will receive rent revenue from Greyhound as well as from future tenants in the other half of the Railway Express Agency building. The rent revenue will assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

DPC Recruitment & Renewals

B. Allen said that the annual recruitment is underway and the Downtown Parking Committee has three members up for renewal: Eric Kelley, Matt LaBrie, and Gene McKnight. Applications for advisory boards are due to the City Clerk on October 19, 2012.

EV Charging Stations

V. Garza said that the EV charging stations are being consistently used and staff received the first check for charging fees. Customers pay \$1/hr for charging and any applicable parking fees.

County Flood Control Project

V. Garza said that the County is working at the Depot Lot to construct a flood diversion and alleviate flooding. Although Montecito Street will be closed through the New Year, the long-term parking section of the Depot Lot will be restored by the holidays.

T. Williams asked if this is the last section of work to be completed on the project. B. Allen said there are more phases to be completed downstream.

City CIP Planning

B. Allen informed the Committee that the City Capital Improvement Program is under way and staff is preparing their two-year recommendation that will go to Council. The CIP plan will be reviewed with the Finance Subcommittee prior to coming to the Full Committee.

Ensemble Theatre

V. Garza said that the Victoria Theater contractors set up the staging area. The Victoria Street lane has been converted to a temporary exit with a permanent kiosk to come at a later time. V. Garza said that signs have been placed around Lot 5 to direct drivers to the Granada Garage. There is a formal agreement in place stating that the contractors have to clean-up graffiti on the staging area, not park outside of the staging area, and they will pay \$20 per space, 7 days a week.

8) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58.