



DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 11, 2014
Gebhard Meeting Room
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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

2) **ROLL CALL**

DPC MEMBERS

	<u>Attendance</u>
Matt LaBrie (Chair)	Present
Trey Pinner (Vice-Chair)	Present
Kate Schwab	Present
Bill Collyer	Excused
Gene McKnight	Present
Sean Pratt	Present
Tom Williams	Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation, Streets and Parking Manager
Victor Garza, Parking /TMP Superintendent
Dion Tait, Parking Supervisor
Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Clark, Parking Resource Specialist
Teri Green, Associate Transportation Planner
Roy Forney, Parking Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Randy Rowse, City Council
John Campanella, Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

Terry Bartlett, Reetz, Fox and Bartlett
Gail O'Reilly, Public
Carol Cope, Public
Diane Barrickman Duncan, Public

3) **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Committee Member LaBrie moved item (6), State Street Safety Guide Pilot Program, after item (7), the Quarterly Occupancy Survey.

4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diane Barrickman Duncan, owner of an injury prevention consulting business, requested that the City prohibit RV, boat and large vehicle parking on Cliff Drive near 402 and 404 Vista De La Playa Street. Ms. Duncan said that the area is frequented by homeless RV dwellers, trucks, attached trailers and boats. These vehicles block the view of drivers and jeopardize pedestrians on Cliff Drive. Referencing Figure 4 in her handout, Ms. Duncan said that a Toyota RV is often parked for more than 72 hours and when asked to move, the vehicle relocates across the street. Ms. Duncan said that there are serious safety issues for people traveling on the sidewalks and she asked that staff consider installing signs that prohibit RV and large vehicle parking around 402 and 404 Vista De La Playa Street, and around 1246 and 1236 Cliff Drive. Ms. Duncan noted that adding red curb would be an acceptable option. Ms. Duncan thanked the Committee for their time and consideration.

Mr. Allen said that Ms. Duncan's concerns are not in the purview of the Downtown Parking Committee; however, he would refer it to the correct division and follow up with Traffic Engineering.

Ethan Shenkman said that he is submitting an application for the Downtown Parking Committee. Mr. Shenkman made the following points: 1) he does not approve of the relocation of the 911 call center facing down hill traffic, 2) Downtown Parking personnel are assigned to needlessly direct traffic in toxic garages, 3) surplus margins exist in the Downtown Parking budget, 4) California law prohibits collecting fees from handicap individuals, and 5) there were Brown Act violations on July 17, 2014 at a meeting organized by Browning Allen.

5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 17, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes for the special meeting of July 17, 2014.

Made By: Tom Williams **Second:** Kate Schwab

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Abstain: 2 (McKnight, Pratt) Absent: (Collyer)

6) QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY SURVEY

Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant, presented the quarterly occupancy survey, comparing 2014 to 2013 for the months of April through June.

Public Comment

Ethan Shenkman commented that the female lot operators have bad posture and they are unsightly. He said that the male lot operators have good posture and they are inviting to customers. Mr. Shenkman stood upright during the meeting to physically exhibit his observation of the lot operator's posture.

In addition to not being relevant to the occupancy survey, Mr. Garza said that Mr. Shenkman's comments were inappropriate and insulting to the downtown parking lot operators. Chair LaBrie asked that Mr. Shenkman's comments be respectful as well as relevant to the item. Mr. Shenkman insisted that his comments are relevant to the item. Mr. Garza addressed the Chair and said that the comments are not appropriate for the meeting.

Committee Member McKnight asked if the Lot 9 occupancy survey includes the parking spaces in the basement. Mr. Hamilton said that they do not include the basement parking spaces.

Committee Member Williams commented that Lot 9 often looks full when he passes by, although the occupancy charts do not show that observation. Mr. Hamilton explained that both levels of the Lot 9 garage are averaged together and while one level may be full the other level can be less occupied.

Chair LaBrie requested occupancy charts for Lot 6 leading up to the Granada Garage construction.

7) STATE STREET SAFETY GUIDES PILOT PROGRAM

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, informed the Committee that Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, and himself made a presentation to City Council regarding the State Street Safety Guides Pilot Program on September 9, 2014.

Mr. Garza said that in early June 2014 Councilmember Rowse requested one-time funds in the amount of \$150,000 for an increased presence in the Downtown Core. The \$150,000 was intended to implement a Safety Guide Pilot Program in the Downtown Core. The safety guides would walk the entire Downtown Core, including pedestrian paseos, and interact with visitors and business owners as well as identify criminal or unwanted behavior. City Council was not supportive of the Safety Guide Pilot Program as presented at the September 9, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Allen said that City Council directed staff to look at expanding the Yellow Shirt Program as well as other options for increased security. The Police Department will be presenting the various options to City Council near the end of October 2014.

Mr. Garza noted that many other cities choose to fund their safety programs through Business Improvement Districts (BID).

Councilmember Rowse said that some stakeholders were concerned about a private enterprise doing security work when typically the Police Department is the lead on public safety initiatives. Mr. Rowse said

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that he does not believe the Yellow Shirt Program has been effective at reducing unwanted behavior in the Downtown Core. Mr. Rowse said that staff will be back at City Council with more options for improving the perception of Downtown security.

Councilmember Rowse said that he recommended Downtown Parking as the Pilot Program administrator due to their culture of service. Mr. Rowse added that Downtown Parking employees are trained as City ambassadors and that is the attitude he would like to bring to the Safety Guides Pilot Program. Mr. Rowse said that he is not giving up on the concept and there will be more discussions at future City Council meetings.

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said that Downtown Parking funds will not be used to support the Safety Guides Pilot Program. Mr. Allen added that Maggie Campbell, Executive Director of the Downtown Organization, was a valuable resource for writing the scope of work, researching other cities and providing feedback.

Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said that the City of Long Beach and the City of Santa Monica showed him how important and effective an official presence can be for curbing unwanted behavior and improving the experience for visitors, shoppers and businesses.

Vice-Chair Pinner said that there does not seem to be an objection to the need, but there are differing opinions on how to accomplish the goal of a more comfortable and secure Downtown Core. Councilmember Rowse confirmed Mr. Pinner's assessment of the issue.

Committee Member Williams said that his understanding of the situation is that Downtown Parking will not be involved with the management of the Yellow Shirt Program. Mr. Williams said that he was initially concerned about the ongoing costs to Downtown Parking after the one-time funds had been expended. He said that the funding for the Pilot Program will come from the general fund; however, future costs may end up in the Downtown Parking budget.

Councilmember Rowse acknowledged Mr. Williams concerns regarding the Parking budget. Mr. Rowse reiterated that he recommended Parking as the Pilot Program administrator because of their customer service orientation and experience dealing with the public.

Committee Member McKnight said that it is not clear that the Downtown Organization can legally increase BID fees and fund the Safety Guides Program themselves.

Councilmember Rowse commented that by hiring a private contractor the City would not need to increase staffing and there would also not be a significant increase in workload.

Chair Labrie thanked Councilmember Rowse for advocating for the economic engine of the City, the Downtown Core.

Committee Member McKnight said that he supports the concept of a safety guide program as presented to City Council and he suggested that the Downtown Parking Committee make a vote of confidence for the Program.

Vice-Chair Pinner said that he is also interested in voting to show support for the Pilot Program, but without having seen the City Council presentation, he would like to be clear as to what they are supporting.

Mr. Garza said that feedback received from other cities with similar programs indicated that the safety guides did not increase calls to 911 dispatch and it was complementary to police efforts.

Chair LaBrie requested that the presentation given to City Council be given to the Subcommittees and potentially brought back to the full Committee for further discussion.

8) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Valet Parking

Mr. Garza said that Downtown Parking continues to receive requests from the Reagan Center to have valet

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pick up and drop off inside the Depot Lot. Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said that staff is trying to accommodate valet operations in the 90 minute Helena Lot and the Depot Lot. The Reagan Center is only accessible through the Depot Lot. Mr. Garza said that Downtown Parking's experience is that valet operators use the public parking lots in an unsafe manner and Downtown Parking has to use extra staff time to monitor and regulate the valet operators. Mr. Garza said that Downtown Parking is working with the Reagan Center to accommodate their valet events, but with increasing development in surrounding neighborhoods, Downtown Parking may not always be able provide for valet parking in the Depot Lot.

Chair LaBrie said that the Committee would like to stay involved with the evolving issue of valet parking.

City-Wide CIP Planning Process

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said that the capital planning process is underway for all City departments. Mr. Allen said that staff will bring the Downtown Parking Capital Improvement Program to the Finance Subcommittee and the full Committee for review and feedback.

Lot 5 New Kiosk Update

Mr. Garza said that staff is working through the design review process to install a new kiosk at the Victoria Street exit in Lot 5. Currently, there is a temporary plywood kiosk at that exit. The construction will involve some landscaping, lighting adjustments and an expanded outdoor dining area near Olio Limon Restaurant.

Cota Lot Update

Mr. Garza said that as part of the Cota Lot Access Control Project, Downtown Parking will need to address ADA issues and bring the Cota Lot up to current ADA code.

Chair LaBrie said that he attended a discussion at the Central Library regarding City infrastructure. He noted that Committee Member Williams and Planning Commissioner Campanella were also in attendance.

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that the City Clerk's Office is conducting the annual recruitment for advisory boards. Advisory board applications will be due on October 13, 2014.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.