



DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 2015
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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

2) **ROLL CALL**

DPC MEMBERS

Matt LaBrie (Chair)

Trey Pinner (Vice-Chair)

Gene McKnight

Kate Schwab

Sean Pratt

Tom Williams

Vacant

Attendance

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

Sarah Clark, Parking Resource Specialist

Marck Aguilar, Project Planner

Teri Green, Associate Transportation Planner

Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Randy Rowse, City Council

John Campanella, Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

3) **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Item 6 was moved below Items 7 and 8.

4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

5) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2015**

Chair LaBrie requested staff update the May 14, 2015 minutes to include a description of the events that led to the removal of Ethan Shenkman, a member of the public, from the meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 14, 2015 with noted corrections from the Chair.

Made By: Gene McKnight **Second:** Kate Schwab

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

6) **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

Finance

Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant, informed the committee that the Finance Subcommittee chose to focus on the Parking and Business Improvement Area and pedestrian paseos for their 2015-2016 work plan. The Finance Subcommittee also briefly discussed issues involving the Depot Lot campus and recent developments with the Bicycle Master Plan. The "Report For Next Full Committee Meeting" item was tabled.

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2015

Page - 2 -

Communications and Operations

Mr. Hamilton said the Communications and Operations Subcommittee received an update from staff regarding the relocation of the Crescent Crossing bench, and motioned to support the relocation to a suitable location within the Depot Lot. The subcommittee also reviewed plans from staff to close the public restroom in the Ortega Garage due to high water use and inappropriate behavior. Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, added that staff budgeted funds in Fiscal Year 2016 to perform a conceptual analysis of constructing a public restroom similar to the one next to the Lobero Garage. Downtown Parking will be seeking revenue sources other than the Parking Capital Program to move forward with construction in out-years. Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, discussed issues involving the Depot Lot campus resulting from the transfer of ownership from the State of California to the City of Santa Barbara. The "Bicycle Master Plan Update" and "Report For Next Full Committee Meeting" items were tabled. This subcommittee chose to focus on signage for the parking lots and general marketing efforts for their 2015-2016 work plan topics.

7) OPERATIONS UPDATES

Soft Launch For Real-Time Parking Web Page

Malcolm Hamilton informed the committee the real-time parking web application is available to all members of the public. Vice-Chair Pinner recommended marketing through the kiosks by hanging a flyer that is visible to entering and exiting vehicles. Committee Member Williams asked if staff will have the ability to monitor the use of the application. Mr. Hamilton said staff will receive extensive information from Google on the use of the web application. Mr. Williams said there is an ongoing cost to maintain a web page and staff will need to weigh the benefits to the public against the operating costs.

PBIA Public Hearing – June 9, 2015

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said City Council approved the status-quo rates and fixed the assessments for the Parking and Business Improvement Area on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. There were no protests at the Public Hearing. Committee Member Williams said the Council Report indicated that staff will look at the rate structures and business classifications for the coming year. Mr. Allen said the request came from the Finance Subcommittee to continue analyzing the rate structure and it is incorporated into their work plan.

Slurry Seal Project

Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said pavement maintenance work will take place in hourly parking Lots 8 and 12, as well as in the 90 minute Helena and Fish Enterprise Lots.

Cota Lot Access Control Project

Mr. Garza said this project is back on track, and staff is working on finalizing the design which will be brought back before the Downtown Parking Committee.

Depot Lot Valet Requests

Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said there is a city-wide discussion taking place regarding valet parking policies on-street and in public parking lots. Mr. Garza said valet operations are currently not allowed in the parking lots, however, the Reagan Center has been permitted to use valet pick up and drop off in the Depot Lot because there is no public right-of-way access. Chair LaBrie requested a future update on the valet parking policies in the city.

Lot 10 Painting Project

Mr. Garza said the City Lot 10 Painting Project is nearly complete. The winning bid amount was lower than expected and additional painting work was able to be completed in City Lot 10. Mr. Garza said interior pedestrian signage was added on several levels of the garage in addition to what existed previously.

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2015

Page - 3 -

Lot 5 Lighting Project

Mr. Garza said the design for this project is being finalized and staff is aiming to begin the project after Labor Day and have it completed before the December holiday season.

Committee Member Williams asked if staff has a final cost for this project. Mr. Garza said the costs have not been finalized because the bid has not been issued and awarded.

Design Review For Lot 5 New Kiosk and Lot 3 Paseo

Mr. Garza said staff is working through the design review process for both the Lot 5 New Kiosk Project and Lot 3 Paseo Project. Both projects will be reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission on June 17, 2015.

8) RELOCATION OF THE CRESCENT CROSSING BENCH PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, briefed the committee on the history and issues surrounding the Crescent Crossing bench at the end of the public pedestrian paseo leading out from City Lot 10 to State Street. Mr. Allen introduced Marck Aguilar as the Project Planner for this project. Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said prior to fencing off the bench as it stands now, it was a public safety issue that required considerable staff time to monitor and respond to aggressive and inappropriate behavior.

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said Donald Davis is the artist who constructed the Crescent Crossing, and he consented to relocating the art installation.

Mr. Allen said Marck Aguilar, Project Planner, presented the relocation to the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC). The HLC did not support the relocation to the Depot Lot, and the members of the HLC requested an art piece go in the place of the bench should it be relocated. Mr. Allen said the temporary fence surrounding the bench will remain indefinitely until a suitable location is found for its relocation.

Marck Aguilar said there were technically two projects brought before the HLC: first, removal from the existing location and second, installation in the Depot Lot campus. The HLC voted unanimously to not support the relocation to the Depot Lot and was split on removing the bench at all. However, the HLC indicated that it would entertain the relocation of the bench if a different suitable location was found, and additionally, if a new art piece was installed in its place (e.g. tile mosaic or rotating art pieces with a universal base). Staff will be exploring different locations to respect the recommendations of the HLC. Because the bench was installed with public funds, it cannot be relocated to private property. The HLC requested that staff search for a location that already has brick in the vicinity or on the ground.

Browning Allen said the Depot Lot is private property even though it is owned by the city, which allows for enforcement by the police. A public sidewalk permits all people to be there and it is difficult to enforce inappropriate behavior.

Chair LaBrie asked what action is expected from the committee for this item. Mr. Allen said the recommendation for the committee is to concur with the Communications and Operations Subcommittee, and recommend supporting the relocation of the Crescent Crossing bench to a suitable location in the Depot Lot. Mr. LaBrie asked if the committee's comments will be forwarded to both HLC and City Council. Mr. Aguilar confirmed that both bodies will be apprised of the Downtown Parking Committee's comments.

Committee Member Schwab said the preferred location in the Depot Lot is surrounded by grass and not brick as the HLC recommended. Mr. Aguilar said a brick field will most likely be a required element of the relocation. Ms. Schwab asked if staff interpreted the HLC decision to not support the relocation to the Depot Lot as final. Mr. Aguilar said the HLC was unanimous in opposition to the Depot Lot. After researching other locations, staff may find the Depot Lot to still be the most suitable location, at which point City Council may become involved through an appeal. Ms. Schwab asked if the HLC is familiar with the current black fence that is an eyesore downtown. Mr. Aguilar said he believes they are familiar with current situation.

Committee Member Williams said he is confused as to why the Downtown Parking Program is involved. Mr.

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2015

Page - 4 -

Garza said Downtown Parking staff is currently the lead on monitoring and reporting inappropriate behavior on and around the bench. He said it is an attractive nuisance and he is concerned that we may be moving the problem and giving parking staff more work and responsibility. Mr. Williams asked who is paying for the relocation. Browning Allen said Downtown Parking will not be paying for the relocation. Public Works Building Maintenance is funding the relocation.

Browning Allen said parking staff supports the relocation to the Depot Lot because it is currently a problem and resource drain for staff in its current location. Mr. Allen said parking staff will have much better control of the behavior by putting it on private property where police can enforce. Mr. Aguilar said the current location has several key elements that combine to support travelers and inappropriate behavior: shelter from the elements, power outlets, wi-fi access, restaurants in the immediate vicinity, and a high volume of pedestrians. The Depot Lot removes many, if not all, of those elements.

Public Comment

Ginny Brush, Executive Director of the County Arts Commission, thanked staff for their work on this project. Ms. Brush said the Crescent Crossing bench worked well as a resting spot for the downtown shuttle at the outset, however, she said this pedestrian corridor has changed and it has become a challenging gauntlet for the public to travel through. The fence enclosure was originally intended to allow staff to clean and restore the bench and hopefully disperse the energy surrounding it. Unfortunately, when the fence was removed, the energy returned. Staff has worked to find a proper location to meet the intentions of the artist's design, and at the same time, avoid the current issues. To that end, Ms. Brush it is important to try not to put it near food, wi-fi access, and low pedestrian traffic. Ms. Brush said herself and staff looked at La Entrada which had originally planned for a brick plaza, but the design changed, and the bench would be on private property which would give up some rights that artists have in public places. Ms. Brush said she feels the Depot Lot is appropriate and there is public art in the area. She said the proposed location adjacent to the kiosk would create a nexus between the traditional historic El Pueblo Viejo district and the Funk Zone. The bench would also complement the contemporary feel of the Moxi museum and Hotel Indigo. Ms. Brush said she feels strongly that this is an appropriate location in the Depot Lot, and it would be less desirable for panhandling. She said there are compromises that can be made with the HLC, such as expanding the brick field that would surround the bench. Ms. Brush said there is also an opportunity to place a new piece of art at the terminal point of the paseo leading from City Lot 10 to State Street.

Maggie Campbell, Executive Director of the Downtown Organization, said she understands the committee's concern regarding parking funds being used for the relocation. Ms. Campbell said parking is a function of business, and the downtown experience begins when a customer drives into the district and walks out to the public sidewalks. Ms. Campbell said it is awkward as it sits right now with a fence enclosure. Ms. Campbell asked the Downtown Parking Committee members to join her at the next HLC meeting to express support for the relocation of the bench. Ms. Campbell commented the bench would serve a function for Amtrak customers to rest while they wait for their departures and arrivals. She said the train station historically has been a community gathering place and this bench would support that tradition. She said it is important to advocate collectively to work out a solution to this well known problem. The Community Service Officers and the C3H initiative are working to clean up the perception and behavior on State Street, and the relocation of the Crescent Crossing bench continues those efforts.

Committee Member McKnight said art is meant to stand out and be different than the traditional urban landscape, and he believes this art piece needs to be put in a place where people can view it and appreciate it without the distraction of current issues.

Vice-Chair Pinner asked if a decision by the HLC is appealable to City Council. Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, confirmed.

Chair LaBrie asked if it is the city's plan to extend the brick sidewalks below the freeway on State Street. Marck Aguilar, Project Planner, said he is not aware of an initiative to extend the brick mall concept, but he cannot say for certain. Mr. Allen said the La Entrada project will install some areas of brick sidewalk surrounding the development, but there are no plans to install brick sidewalk between the Depot Lot and the 101 freeway.

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2015

Page - 5 -

Committee Member Williams said he supports the removal due to the current issues and he is happy to hear the Downtown Parking Program will not be paying for the relocation. He said the proposed location in the Depot Lot is about 60-70 feet off State Street, and he does not believe it will draw significant pedestrian traffic. He said he believes it may be the best location, and he would support the relocation to the Depot Lot.

Vice-Chair Pinner said he thinks it is important to untangle the discussions as to where the brick bench will go and what will go in its place. He said he would support a motion that only deals with the relocation to the Depot Lot, but not a motion that also discusses what will go in its place.

Motion: That the committee support staff's recommendation for the relocation of the Crescent Crossing bench from its current location on State Street to the Depot Lot in the preferred location as indicated adjacent to the kiosk.

Made By: Trey Pinner **Second:** Kate Schwab

Discussion: Committee Member Williams commented that there is no language in the recommendation as to what will go in place of the Crescent Crossing bench. Mr. Allen said Mr. Williams can propose an amendment to the motion.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.