



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Parking Review Group

Parking Review Group

April 26, 2022

Cocheco Conference Room- 33 Wakefield Street

Members Present

Tim Fontneau – Chairman/City Councilor
Michael Bezanson – Dept of Public Works
Kris Ebbeson – Riverstones Framing
Keith Fitts – Planning Board
Todd Radic – Skeletone Records
Mike Scala – Economic Development
Andrew Swanberry – Police Dept

Staff Present

Jenn Marsh, Economic Development

Members Absent

Ralph DiBernardo – JetPack Comics
Marc Saxby – Collectiques
Shanna B. Saunders – Planning Dept

Others Present

Shawn Hopper, Moe's Sub
Steve Beaudoin, City Councilor

I. Call to Order

Tim Fontneau called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ryan O'Connor conducted roll call.

III. Approval of minutes March 29, 2022

Todd Radic made a motion to approve the March 29, 2022 minutes. Keith Fitts seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. 2021 Parking Study Question and Answer Session - Liza Cohen, Senior Associate, Stantec Engineering.

Liza Cohen presented the 2021 Parking Study that was presented to City Council in Summer 2021. Ms. Cohen discussed the Parking Goals for the City and the inventory of downtown Rochester which includes private and public parking spaces. Ms. Cohen



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discussed the leases that the City provides for tenants. Ms. Cohen explained that during site observation regulations and signage was unclear in downtown parking areas. Ms. Cohen discussed how parking could be maximized in the downtown area and the times that the parking is in high demand. Ms. Cohen stated that currently there are 1,899 spaces available in downtown Rochester. Ms. Cohen explained the future land use scenarios.

The PRG asked questions about the ideal utilization of the parking. Ms. Cohen explained that it is important to have 85% utilization with 15% available parking. Ms. Cohen discussed when special events may occur and how parking could be shifted during that time.

Mr. Hooper asked about revised parking numbers for the weekends when everyone is home, and the restaurants are all open. Ms. Cohen explained that the evening hours would best simulate what the weekends would look like.

Ms. Cohen explained the benefit of metering the parking. Ms. Cohen discussed expanding existing wayfinding and implement standard shared parking practices. Ms. Cohen stated that structured parking was considered, but can be expensive, and is something to consider as Rochester grows.

Mr. Fontneau discussed how the presentation helped explain the parking study better and how it can help the PRG make the downtown parking better. Mr. Fontneau stated that he likes the idea of shared parking.

The board discussed the wayfinding signs for parking and how they could be improved to help visitors easily find parking.

Mr. Fitts asked if the Parking Study should be updated since we are expanding and getting back to normal from when the Parking Study was initially completed. Ms. Cohen explained that it may be a good idea with new residential coming in.

V. Union Street Parking Lot Redesign - Steve Reichert, Senior Project Manager, Fuss & O'Neill Engineering

Steve Reichert, from Fuss & O'Neil, presented the Union Street Parking Lot redesign. Mr. Reichert discussed the three goals/requirements they are looking to meet with the



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redesign: stormwater treatment in compliance with Chapter 218 of the City Ordinances, maximize parking as much as possible and not lose any parking spaces, and to increase the sidewalk area and to have function spaces for people. Mr. Reichert went over the stormwater treatment plan and the flow of traffic and parking in the proposed redesign.

Councilor Beaudoin asked if Barker Ct will be closed down? Mr. Reichert stated that it will be used as pedestrian only.

Councilor Beaudoin asked if there are any more parking spots with the redesign. Mr. Reichert stated that they are matching the amount of parking spaces that are currently there, but there is potential for more spaces as this is not a final plan.

Mr. Hooper asked if trucks will be able to get into the proposed parking lot for deliveries? Mr. Reichert explained that delivery trucks will fit and a fire truck can also fit into the parking lot.

Mr. Reichert explained that lighting will be designed based on the design of the parking lot that is approved.

Mr. O'Connor asked if there would be impervious pavement? Mr. Reichert stated that is something that would have to be discussed with the City as it is not ideal.

Mr. Reichert stated the City is working with a company to get a grant to incorporate electric vehicle charging spaces. There is no set space for the EV Charging stations as of yet.

Mr. O'Connor asked about snow storage plans. Mr. Reichert explained the current process and what may be able to happen with the proposed parking design.

VI. Wayfinding Report – History and Implementation – Michael Scala, Director of Economic Development

Michael Scala, Director of Economic Development, presented a wayfinding report. Mr. Scala explained they have just completed Phase 3, which included signage at City Hall and the Community Center. Mr. Scala discussed Phase 4 and that it will be mostly recreational signage. Mr. Scala discussed Phase 1 of the wayfinding, which



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includes parking lot identification. Mr. Scala discussed Phase 2 with pedestrian signs and welcome signs on the outskirts of town.

PRG discussed ways to make paying for parking easier and knowing where there are available spots, rather than driving around to find one. Mr. Scala mentioned a way to pay for parking right from your phone.

VII. Discuss Future Outreach – How and Where

Mr. Scala discussed getting the public involved and find out what they would like to see.

Mr. O'Connor asked the PRG to come to the following meeting with outreach goals and what information they feel still needs to be collected. Councilor Fontneau suggested tabling the discussion for the following meeting. The PRG unanimously agreed to discuss outreach at the next meeting.

Mr. Radic requested the PRG be moved to Monday afternoons. The PRG unanimously agreed to hold Monday meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Greene,
Administrative Assistant II