



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Parking Review Group

Parking Review Group

June 9, 2022

Cocheco Conference Room- 33 Wakefield Street

Members Present

Tim Fontneau – Chairman/City Councilor
Kris Ebbeson – Riverstones Framing
Todd Radic – Skeletone Records
Ryan O'Connor – Senior Planner
Mike Scala – Economic Development
Shanna B. Saunders – Director of Planning
Andrew Swanberry – Police Dept

Members Absent

Michael Bezanson – Dept of Public Works
Ralph DiBernardo – JetPack Comics
Keith Fitts – Planning Board
Marc Saxby – Collectiques
Shanna B. Saunders – Planning Dept

I. Call to Order

Tim Fontneau called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ryan O'Connor conducted roll call.

III. Approval of minutes April 26, 2022

Kris Ebbeson made a motion to approve the April 26, 2022 minutes with the condition to edit Lachapelle to Beaudoin. Andrew Swanberry seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Wrap up from last meeting. Any more data/information needed?

Shanna B. Saunders discussed the original goals sent from Blaine Cox, City Manager and how we have not gone over parking enforcement regulations and violation



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history. Ms. Saunders discussed providing that data for the next meeting. Ms. Saunders went over the capacity of the Union Street parking lot that was provided by Todd Radic. Mr. Radic said he did other parking lots and will send that along to Ms. Saunders for the next meeting. Mr. Scala mentioned that 90% full would mean 80 cars in the parking lot. Ms. Ebbeson asked what was going on that Monday, May 9, because she is closed and so are many other businesses. Ms. Saunders asked about the court house and what they may have going on a Monday. Ms. Ebbeson explained that when she gets to work around 10:00 a.m. there are not a lot of cars in the lot. The PRG discussed the parking data that occurred prior to the pandemic. PRG discussed possibly doing a study with current data. Ms. Saunders discussed Strafford Regional Planning Commission doing a traffic study, which would pertain to them counting vehicles in the lots. Ms. Saunders discussed reviewing site plan regulations and parking requirements for the next meeting and possibly have the police department talk about parking enforcement regulations and the history of parking tickets.

V. Define Mission and Goals

Ms. Saunders discussed possibly shifting or adding to the mission and goals if needed. Ms. Saunders explained that it would be a good idea to go over the mission and goals each meeting to make sure the PRG stays on track. Mr. Fontneau discussed the future outreach and how that would be obtained. Ms. Saunders discussed talking about that today as the last agenda item. Mr. Fontneau said that he feels the mission and goals are still the same and that the group is still heading in that direction.

VI. Discussion about Parking Study Strategies

Ms. Saunders discussed the strategies, listed below, that the parking study laid out. Ms. Saunders explained that this could be our backbone to throw out to the public for input but first discuss as a group to determine if it should be brought to the public.

- a. **Extend or remove time limits**
- b. **Considering metering Main Street to maintain front door availability in the evening**
- c. **Expand Wayfinding (5 ways how)**
- d. **Implement standard shared parking practices x 2**
- e. **Track performance over time**
- f. **Reinvest parking revenue Downtown**



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- g. Update parking management program**
- h. Parking Garage at ~\$25,000 a spot**
- i. Fold parking into mobility improvements**

Mr. Fontneau said that he feels we should be managing time limits on parking spots rather than extending or removing them. Mr. Fontneau explained that he feels the Council won't entertain a parking garage until we exhaust all of our options for parking.

Mr. Scala discussed focusing on parking permits for certain parking lots. Mr. Fontneau agrees and discussed once parking is fully saturated a parking garage would then likely be discussed.

Ms. Ebbeson discussed the handicap parking in downtown Rochester and how it is important for it to be convenient. The group also discussed how people would rather park for free and walk slightly then spend a few dollars for parking.

VII. Discuss Future Outreach – How and Where

Ms. Saunders discussed what future outreach could look like. Ms. Saunders discussed doing a sharete, which involves bringing in professionals that would work with plans and the public. A poster session, where a number of posters get put up in a large area and a member of the committee is placed at each poster to discuss with the public. Ms. Saunders discussed outreaching to the public at a function that is already occurring, like the farmers market. The PRG could set up a table for citizens of Rochester to be able to approach to ask questions. Ms. Saunders discussed putting a poster board up in public spaces with questions and dots for people to be able to vote. Ms. Saunders discussed coasters being made up to hand out to customers at restaurants and citizens could write ideas or comments on the back and slip it into a box provided by the City.

Mr. Fontneau said that he likes all of the ideas besides the formal meeting as he does not feel that it would be as effective. Mr. Scala asked what some of the questions would be that we would ask. Mr. Fontneau said it would be ideal to ask if people have issues with parking as it is now or if they have trouble finding parking in downtown.



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Ms. Saunders brought up having a table at the farmer's market and at the Lilac Family Fun Festival, also putting together some questions to have businesses hand out to customers to fill out and putting together a questionnaire to put on the City website.

Mr. Scala discussed the various parking apps available and that other City's in NH are using. The apps consist of being able to locate a parking spot and if you are in a restaurant, you can reload the time right on the app.

PRG scheduled the next meeting for June 23, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Fontneau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Mr. Radic seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Greene,
Planning Administrative Assistant II