

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
Parking and Traffic Committee
September 25, 2008

The Parking and Traffic Committee met in formal session at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, September 25, 2008 in The Alcazar Conference Room, City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Daniel Sullivan and the following were present:

1. Roll Call

Daniel Sullivan
Len Weeks
Nancy Sikes-Kline
Ken Russom, Designee, Flagler College
David Toner
Christine Smith
Ken Bryan

Absent:

Phil Moan
Richard Pinto
Les Thomas
Gerry Dixon

City Staff:

John Regan, Chief Operations Officer
Ron Brown, City Attorney
Carly Mason, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 26, 2008, Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting were approved as presented.

3. Report by John Regan

John Regan said the following seven topics would be discussed:

- Staff proposal of a concept plan for residents living in the downtown area
- Employee use of the parking garage
- Mailings sent out to establish residential parking for Abbott Tract
- Residential block segment for Lemon Street was performed and not granted
- Two parking spaces were added on Avenida Menendez
- Cost for a consultant to assist with updating the Master Plan
- Creating a concept product for the mixed-use properties that live within the core of the city

Mr. Regan said the proposed residential decal would be for residents that live within the following area starting at Orange Street, going South of Cathedral Place, and to the West of Cordova Street. He said those residents would be able to park in the off-street and right-to-hunt metered parking lots for \$20 a month.

Mr. Sullivan questioned the number of anticipated decals to be sold and the reply was in the dozens.

Mr. Weeks suggested using the Lightner and Grace Methodist parking lots for the residents that purchased the parking decals.

David Toner questioned the number of passes a resident would be able to purchase, and the response was that it would be determined by the number of vehicles that a resident owned and provided documentation for.

Mr. Regan reported that when the residential parking was initiated on Avenida

Menendez the City thought residents would purchase the \$30 yearly decals; however, the cost of the decal caused the residents to stop and consider whether the parking decal was worth the cost.

Nancy Sikes-Kline said that on-street and off-street parking should be more consistent, and the parking prices should be tiered. She said on-street parking should be the highest priced, off-street parking, and the parking garage should be the least expensive.

Mr. Toner said the on-street parking spots would be the most accessible for visitors.

Mr. Regan said he hoped the only resident that would purchase the decal would be the ones who truly needed it. He said each metered space roughly generated \$200 - \$300 per month, but the City was willing to offset some of that revenue for the purchase of residential decals.

Ken Bryan said there were some benefits to the City from people living downtown. He said one way to increase revenue was to rent out the vacant apartments in downtown.

Mr. Weeks questioned whether the parking garage could be included in the off-street metered lots for the decals, and the response was affirmative.

Christine Smith questioned whether residents would be able to purchase both types of decals, and the response was affirmative.

Philip Baldwin said the Toques parking lot filled up quickly during tourist season, which would stop him from finding a space. He recommended that the City limit the distribution of the parking decals. He stated that the proposal from the City was unfair. He suggested that the City lower the price of the decals and designate one parking space for each resident that purchased the decals.

Mr. Regan said the City would take Mr. Baldwin's suggestions into consideration. He said that Robin Upchurch had done a study on Savannah's parking and would discuss the outcome at the subsequent meeting.

Ron Brown said the layout of Savannah was different from St. Augustine; therefore, residents could not be given the same advantage. He questioned whether Charlotte Street ever had free parking. He said it was a matter of providing a space for a fee.

Mr. Toner questioned the difference between a residential and a commercial property owners purchasing the decals, and if they would have the same rights.

Mr. Brown replied that parking was open to the public and designating parking spaces would be discriminating against the uses. He said the City had commercial loading zones; however, people could not use those spaces for parking. He concluded that the commercial and resident property owners had equal rights.

Mr. Toner questioned whether a homeowner with a meter in front of their residence could have the space rented to them, and the response was no.

Mr. Weeks said that Mr. Baldwin wanted to have a guaranteed space that was less expensive. He said that a space was available for \$75 per month, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, but the resident did not want to pay for it.

Mr. Baldwin replied that he would like the opportunity to have a space available for those residents that lived within the City.

Ms. Sikes-Kline questioned whether the rates for the park-now card could be lowered if the policy was changed and the response was affirmative.

Mr. Toner said he was concerned that the parking decal issues could lead to a larger problem once the Committee starting looking into the matter.

Ms. Sikes-Kline commented that it was a good time for the Committee to start planning while the economy was in a negative state. She explained that it would be good because the committee could look at what went wrong and how it could be corrected.

Mr. Toner said the discussion in regards to the cost of the consultant should be put on next years budget.

Mr. Regan said the University of Florida survey would collect information from the Parking and Traffic Committee. He said the committee could either find the money in the budget, work with the information they had, or work with the University of Florida layout.

Mr. Bryan suggested communicating with the University of Florida to discuss different ideas.

Ms. Sikes-Kline said that on October 6, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the Steering Committee would be holding there, meeting and she suggested that the PAT members attend.

Mr. Regan said that he would also recommend that Reynolds, Smith, and Hill attend the October PAT meeting. He said that Ed Poppell Vice President of Facilities for University of Florida had attended the first couple of meetings, and he spent a lot of time during those meetings making sure that their efforts were synchronized with other agencies.

Mr. Sullivan said that during the June meeting they had discussions regarding delivery trucks in the downtown area.

Mr. Weeks explained that large delivery trucks, such as FedEx, UPS, Sysco, and

U.S. Foods delivered to commercial businesses downtown and in the process the trucks blocked streets, destroy signs and balconies, which had to be repaired. He said that he would collect more information for the next meeting. He said that signs were posted downtown for no parking; however, the described situation was not enforced.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that Mr. Weeks present a study of the situation at the subsequent meeting, and it was agreed.

Mr. Regan referred to the different ideas regarding the Master Plan that were discussed during the June meeting and suggested discussing those ideas with the representatives from UF, if they attended the October PAT meeting.

4. Other Business

4. (a) Discussion regarding the marketing program results on employee use of the parking garage

Mr. Regan said a marketing flyer was sent out to local businesses in the downtown area to promote the Employee Proximity Card. He said twenty businesses accepted the cards, but only five took advantage of them. He said the City was still actively promoting the card, and overall parking in the garage had increased.

5. Discussion Topics for Subsequent Meeting

- Suggestions regarding residential parking lots
- Robin Upchurch would provide an analysis of Savannah's parking situation
- Mr. Regan would invite the University of Florida to attend the subsequent PAT meeting
- Mr. Weeks would provide a study of the commercial trucks in the downtown area

**6. Next scheduled meeting –
October 23, 2008**

(So acknowledged)

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 A.M. ¹ ²

¹ This document is an unapproved draft of the minutes of the meeting held on the date indicated. As such, the minutes shall not be considered final or accurate until formal approval of the minutes at a duly noticed meeting of the committee at which a quorum is present.

² Transcribed by Carly Mason