

POULSBO DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 3

September 14, 2023

Meeting Invitees:

Becky Erickson, Mayor	Paul Anunson, Sons of Norway (Non-Profit)
Ray Stevens, Planning Commission	Diane Lenius, City of Poulsbo
Mark Kipps, Planning Commission	Heather Wright, City of Poulsbo
Jerry Block, Planning Commission	Michael Bateman, City of Poulsbo
Gary McVey, City Council	Josh Ranes, City of Poulsbo
Britt Livdahl, City Council	Nikole Coleman, City of Poulsbo
Ed Stern, City Council	April Zieman, City of Poulsbo
Sandi Kolbeins, The Loft (Restaurant)	Drew Willsey, Consultant Team
Kristin Jagodzinski, Flicka (Retail Shop)	Mallory Baker, Consultant Team
Tasha Zetty, RE/MAX	Drew Heckathorn, Consultant Team

Meeting Objectives:

1. Review of the project scope, schedule, the vision and guiding principles, problems and opportunities, and the path to solutions.
2. Present a menu of potential solutions and strategies that will enable Poulsbo to achieve its parking system goals.
3. Open discussion of solutions and strategies
4. Next steps

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 11:35 AM PDT. After a brief review and summary of information shared, feedback received, and status of action items resulting from the previous two meetings, Ms. Baker then presented a menu of potential low-effort-mid-effort-, and high-effort strategies and solutions that were devised by the consulting team and elaborated on the costs and benefits of each solution, as well as opined on how and why each strategy and solution presented may or may not be a good fit for Poulsbo.

During the presentation, there were some questions asked and answers provided. After the presentation, there was an open discussion of the strategies and solutions that were presented

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

amongst the committee and other attendees. Finally, next steps were discussed before the meeting concluded at 12:31 PM PDT.

Questions and Comments About Presentation Slides (included as attachment):

- Question: How much structured parking would cost per space.
- Responses from another committee member and from Ms. Baker: Within the context of Poulsbo and given that a parking structure would likely need to be aesthetically pleasing, difficult to construct, and need to fit within an irregular footprint, the cost per space might be close to \$60k per space.
- Comment: We don't have enough handicap spaces downtown, especially if we move towards paid parking in the Anderson Lots.
- Comment: We could use more very short-term spaces along Front St.
- Comment: Some money from paid parking would likely go to the HDPa in order to create and facilitate employee parking.
- Question: Is HDPa capable of incentivizing employee parking?
- Response: If there's adequate funding, HDPa would likely be effective and capable of acting.
- Question for the consultant: Do we have 1 or 2 preferred software/tech platform vendors?
- Response from Ms. Baker: We are vendor neutral. However, we would recommend multi-space meters as well as a smartphone-based option.
- Comment from the mayor: ParkMobile might be the best option, used by Marina and elsewhere.
- Comment: In Paso Robles, one thing they did to help with adoption [of paid parking] was that they made the first hour or two free, and parkers didn't have to use the app to pay. The "transition period" lasted about a year, and it made the move to paid parking less of a blow.
- Comment from the mayor: I have looked into paid parking. One conclusion I came to was that if we move in that direction, we should move towards giving some revenues generated to some other associations, such as HDPa.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Open Discussion Following Presentation:

- Comment from business owner: My concern is safety for my employees. Poulsbo is safe, but we have homeless. Also, there is a concern about the weather. It rains frequently 4 – 6 months out of the year.
- Question: Would it be paid parking at all times or at certain hours.
- Response from Ms. Baker: We haven't thought in detail about the hours. 7 am would be early as a start time. In any case, there would be facilities where [employees] would be permitted to park in.
- Comment: If we have paid parking, it should only apply towards "premier spaces." Also, there should be some sort of dedicated spaces for employees to park in. I really hope that maintaining the status quo is not the desired path forward.
- Comment: Instituting a paid model will cause some friction. What I keep coming back to though is that it's costing us economically now to maintain existing system as is. Who's paying for it? To me, it's more equitable for the people who are using parking to pay for the parking.
- Comment: The [Port of Poulsbo paid lot] sits empty most of the day, because city public parking is all free.
- Comment: "We have a free parking problem."
- Comment: For a parking structure, at 350 spaces and \$60k a space, the debt service would be \$1.3 million a year. That's not going to happen.
- Question: Would we implement a validation system?
- Response from Ms. Baker: We could do that potentially. It would be a tech-based validation system. However, one thing we've found in some other communities is that validations aren't used very much, though validations work well in some communities.
- Comment: Many visitors to Poulsbo now expect that they have to pay for parking. Many people come up to me and ask, "where's the parking kiosk?"
- Comment: We have noticed busses parking in Anderson Lots a lot, more often lately. They're parking and taking up 10 spots.
- Comments: We want to make sure we're being fair.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Final Questions and Comments:

- Comment: The implementation plan should be refined and then come back to the [Advisory Committee] before it goes to Council.
- Comment: Council is going to want to know where the money is going to go [from paid parking].
- Comment: We should move forward with an implementation plan in order to present to Council.
- Comment from Ms. Baker: We can research some comps for the area to determine rates and hours used in other peer communities. Also, we can research sales tax revenues to prove that paid parking typically does not hurt sales tax revenues when it is implemented.
- Question: What would the psychological impact be of charging slightly less than \$2 per hour?
- Comment: Would like to see some alternative parking options for bikes.

Next Steps:

Draft Implementation and Action Plan for final Advisory Committee review and Council presentation.

Attachments:

Meeting PowerPoint Presentation