

Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2016

City Hall – Merritt Room at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

David Ringler, Mike Sullivan, Bruce Sinclair, Elizabeth Krajewski, Tisha Polocko, David Cooperman

Absent:

Staff Liaison:

Brain Applebee, Lisa Read, Marian Lane, Steve Bittner

1. **Call meeting to order**
5:05
2. **Additions/deletions to the agenda**
Add citizen's communication regarding downtown parking.
3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Move: B. Sinclair Carried
4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Moved: B. Sinclair Carried
5. **Presentations (invited guests)**
None
6. **Business**

6.1 Review of issues raised to date
D. Ringler tabled a list of outstanding items.

Discussion ensued on the various issues resulting in the following resolutions:

Moote Street – B. Applebee indicated that a report was sent to Council for information and it was determined that the item could be removed from the outstanding items list.

Winter Parking Prohibition – B. Applebee indicated that a follow-up report will be forthcoming which will be brought to the Committee. This item is referred to a future meeting.

Residential Parking Policy – S. Bittner indicated that a policy is forthcoming and will be presented to the Committee. This item is referred to a future meeting.

Port Dalhousie B.I.A. – J. Riddell indicated that there will be a secondary plan for the area which will assess both traffic and parking. This item is referred to a future meeting.

West St. Catharines B.I.A. – D. Ringler noted that currently there is no representative from the B.I.A. Request staff reach out to the ward Councilor's to see if there is desire to have a representative.

Private Parking Operation – S. Bittner noted outlined that the business operations were referred to Legal. L. Read noted that a joint venture was being explored between the City and the private operators regarding enforcement. The item was referred to the Downtown Parking Study.

Motion to endorse these courses of action.

Moved: D. Cooperman Carried

6.2 2016 Goals and Objectives

D. Ringler provided an outline for the 2016 goals and objectives (attached).

Discussion ensued on various issues resulting in the following resolutions:

Loading Zones – D. Ringler asked if parking could be allowed at certain times of the day within the loading zones. Referred to the Downtown B.I.A. to follow-up with City staff.

Shortage of Long Term Daily Parking – D. Ringler asked the Committee to generate ideas to increase the parking supply. Referred to the next meeting.

Motion to endorse these courses of action.

Moved: B. Sinclair Carried

6.3 Downtown parking study update

B. Applebee provided an update on the status of the study. A meeting with the Committee and the consultant was tentatively scheduled for April 5th, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

6.4 St. Paul Street parking proposal

B. Applebee presented the proposal to remove parking from the north side of St. Paul Street from Garden Park to James Street (see attached). The Downtown B.I.A. presented comments requesting that this issue be referred to the parking study. It was noted that this work would happen in conjunction with the road work, which would occur prior to the study's completion.

Motion to retain the parking.

Moved: D. Cooperman Carried

6.5 Future meeting dates.

The regularly scheduled meetings for 2016 will occur on the first Tuesday in June, September and December.

6.6 Citizen's communication regarding event parking.

B. Sinclair submitted a citizen communication outlining concerns and suggestions related to downtown event parking.

7. **Date of next meeting**
Tuesday, April 05, 2016

8. **Motion to Adjourn**
Moved: B. Sinclair Carried

ITEMS 6.1 AND 6.2

Parking Advisory Committee **Summary of Issues and Accomplishments for 2016**

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

April 5

June 7

September 6

December 6

ONGOING

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY - Anticipated Report Availability March 2017

Issues identified by the Committee

- Understanding how Council sees the role of parking - a service or a revenue generator
- Understanding Council's intention regarding investment in parking
- Can parking be sustainable given the loss of 475 city owned spaces (approximately 20%) without a punitive increase in rates
- Understanding Council's desire for the Parking Reserve Fund
- Understanding why there have been large fluctuations in budget and actual
- Ensure event parking is segregated from meter, short term lots, long term lots and garages
- Maximize Downtown parking space availability – Councillor request
- Committee walk through Downtown
- Better understand modes of transportation being used by patrons to the PAC and Meridian Centre and what, if any, approaches can be taken to get patrons to use alternate transportation
- Improving signage/public awareness of parking availability
- Understanding the role of new technology, if any

APRIL MEETING

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

- Initial meeting with consultants

2. If time permits - BRAINSTORM SHORT TERM FIX TO ADDRESS SEVERE SHORTAGE OF LONG TERM PARKING SPACES

- Use underutilized parking meter areas to increase monthly permits
- Reconsider staff free parking given there is no longer a surplus of spaces

JUNE MEETING

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY – Update

2. If not addressed at April meeting -BRAINSTORM SHORT TERM FIX TO ADDRESS SEVERE SHORTAGE OF LONG TERM PARKING SPACES

SEPTEMBER MEETING

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY – Update
2. HOLIDAY PARKING REQUEST FROM DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER MEETING

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY - Update

IDENTIFIED REPORTS SEEKING COMMITTEE INPUT

Timing to be determined by Staff allowing time for Committee review prior to going to Council

1. WINTER PARKING PROHIBITION – DOWNTOWN
 - Report relating to Winter 2015/2016
2. WINTER PARKING PROHIBITION – CITY WIDE
 - Recommendation for rollout ensuring an understanding of how to manage areas with significant parking constraints
3. ALTER PARKING ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS
 - Recommendation
4. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY SYSTEM REVIEW
 - Recommendation
5. RATES REVIEW
 - Recommendation

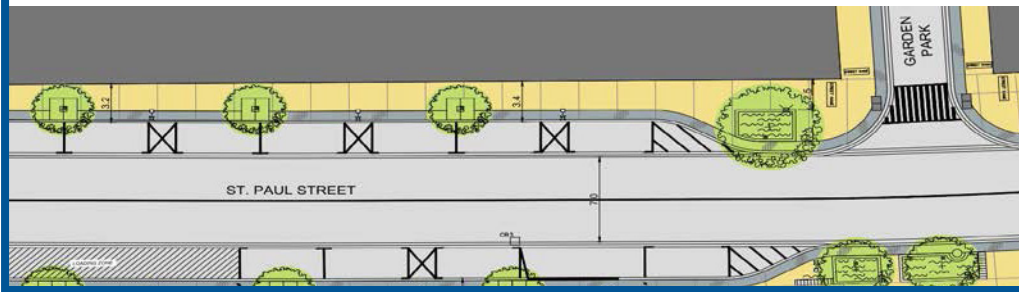
ITEM 6.4

Request for Input from the Public

City of St. Catharines – Proposed Streetscaping on St. Paul Street

A Public Information Centre was held on April 14, 2015 at that time plans were presented that showed parking on both sides of St. Paul Street between Garden Park and James Street. Due to the comments received from the public following this meeting the City is now proposing to remove parking from the north side of St. Paul Street between Garden Park and James Street. A loading zone and 3 parking stalls would remain on the south side along with an accessible drop off area. (Please refer to drawings below).

Parking Proposed at April 14, 2015 Public Information Centre



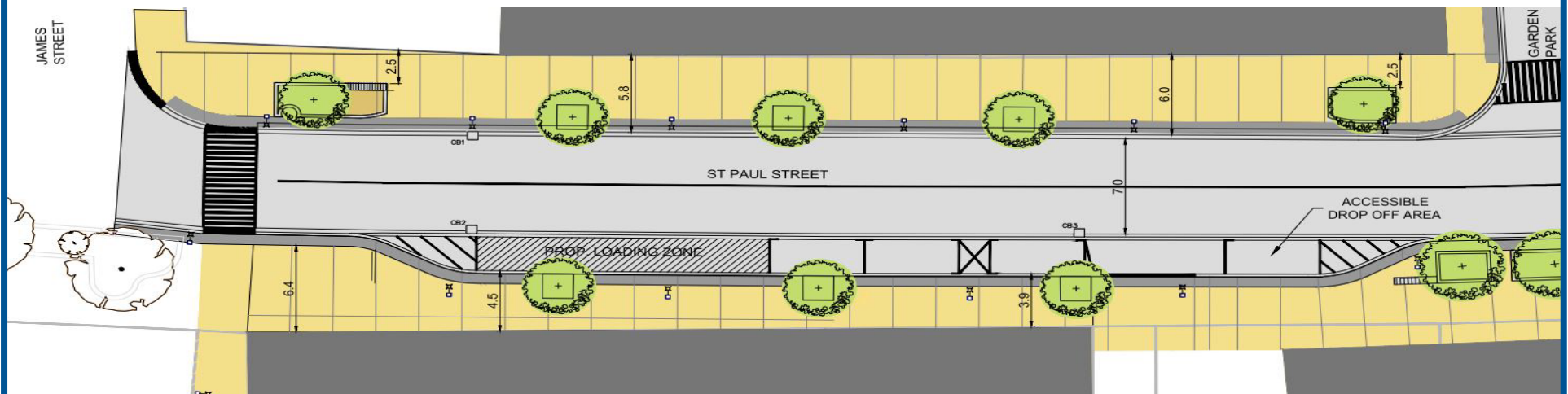
Tell us what you think of the proposed changes!

Take the Survey on the reverse or at

www.stcatharines.ca/StPaulStreetSurvey

Current Proposal to Remove Parking on the North Side of St. Paul between Garden Park and James Street.

(Extra wide sidewalks allow for outdoor commerce)



If you need additional space to comment, visit www.stcatharines.ca/StPaulStreetSurvey

Name _____ Affiliation (if Applicable) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

I have reviewed the information provided on the proposed changes and:

- ☐ I am satisfied with the proposed change to eliminate parking from the north side of St. Paul Street between Garden Park and James Street in favour of a wider sidewalk
- ☐ I am not satisfied with the proposed changes to eliminate parking
- ☐ I have no opinion

Do you have any further comments about the proposed project?

Please submit your comments to the following by March 23, 2016 to:

Ms. Samantha Downing, P. Eng. Project Manager
City of St. Catharines
50 Church Street, P.O. Box 3012 St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2
Email: sdowning@stcatharines.ca

Thank you for your contribution to this project.

Information presented at the previous Public Information Centres is available on the City’s web page at <http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/governin/downtown-streetscaping.asp>



ITEM 6.5

St. Catharines Parking Committee Meeting March 10, 2016

Dr. Yvonna Hrabowsky of Niagara Prosthodontics, business owner for 25 years, shareholder of the 421 St. Paul St. building since 1973 (43 years), and now a Downtown resident.

Please consider the following suggestions to alleviate parking issues. Present establishments need immediate relief.

On Event Nights there is not enough parking for ticket holders and for patrons of restaurants. Some restaurants just close for the evening. Others had customers call and cancel reservations because they were unable to find a parking space. (The older population can not walk far.) This is only compounded by activities at the Gatecliff Arenas. In my estimation, each restaurant needs 8 or more parking places to provide for their evening business needs after events commence.

The problem is hurting the businesses and our new downtown centers. We can't rob Peter to pay Paul. They all suffer from inadequate parking. Hence some proposals:

1. Bus Valet. Let Event tickets provide a free round trip bus pass from anywhere in the city. People can walk to a stop, use a transfer or find their own place to park next to a direct bus route downtown. This can commence immediately. Prior to using Bus Valet encourage people to check the departure time of their return bus after the event. The city should ensure we have reasonably timed "return busses" on major routes so transportation is available within a reasonable timeframe after the event (and not wait an hour).
2. Encourage use of the parking garages. Let Event Ticket Holders that arrive 1 1/2 hours before the event (ie enough time to get a meal) have a FREE pass. Without businesses we have no Downtown. We need to maximize use of parking places because drivers have more discretionary income. Maximizing parking places means that people come for two reasons, event and a meal, instead of one.
3. Market & promote this aggressively in the electronic, published & radio media. Ask the Event Centers to promote it.
4. Change the parking meters to a 90 minute limit in the evenings to promote parking for restaurant/business patrons. This can be in designated areas. Also add 15 minute spaces for people to pick up their "take out" orders. Survey the restaurants to find out the number of spaces needed & where this would help. The St. Catharines Golf Club offered an event park, dinner & shuttle service deal. Lets be creative. What about the Delta Bingo for parking?
5. Create an Opinion Booth inside the PAC & Meridian to survey patrons on their parking experiences & whether they used the garage, bussed, walked or came

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early for a meal. Let high school students run this with supervision as part of their Community Service hours.

6. Partner with the PAC & Meridian events. If patrons arrive downtown at least 90 minutes before an event then they are eligible to enter for a draw for a free ticket to a future event.
7. Valet Parking so latecomers to an event or those unable to find parking can drive up to the door and get to their seats without further frustration. This would help people from out of town. At individual discretion, let it be gratis for first-time out-of-towners then also give them a flyer of parking options in the future. Train & employ young people, let them earn tips. Lets work with a close by unused site, eg. Delta Bingo but make it well lit, clean & secure. Lets be known as the Friendly City, hospitable to our patrons.
8. Do we have easy "Drop and Pick-up" places at the PAC or Meridian for drivers to let out passengers in bad weather or the physically challenged?
9. Consider a downtown trolley car with a regular route that shuttles patrons to their destinations & back to their cars. Link the trolley location to a mobile APP so patrons can wait indoors during bad weather until the trolley is approaching. This will help people with mobility issues, or with large packages, and add safety for single women during the dark evenings. On the trolley have a historical narrative of the downtown & photos. Inside the trolley, list upcoming events & advertisements of downtown businesses only. The trolley is part of our heritage. Partner with Brock & Niagara College for various aspects of this project. Get the young people involved! Call it the Tubman Trolley. Have a Trolley driver and a historian / patron facilitator to engage passengers. It also adds security. History students make excellent interpreters.
10. Reevaluate the mandate of parking meter officers. I've heard many reports from my clients & other restaurants owners that the officers are punitive. We've witnessed them waiting for a meter to run down and write a ticket as the driver approaches their vehicle. A ticket spoils the joy of a pleasant evening.

These are some ideas. If even one or two improve the parking situation we will have a better Downtown. Please invite downtown owners & business to provide their input in various manners, an open forum personal participation, by email or letter.

I too have great hopes for our Downtown. The two new event facilities are a start. Please provide more street parking for restaurant owners (the most important and real task at hand) and help Downtown thrive.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts.