

PARKING TASK FORCE

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Video of the meeting is [HERE](#). Agenda packet [60-page pdf] is [HERE](#).

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: O.E. Burke, Elizabeth Jones, Wayne Lundberg, Tony Otte, Gerard Pendergast (chair), Zoe Neuner (vice chair), and Serge Sorese. Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Ron Neibert, Assistant City Clerk Kelly McQuillen

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brian Carwile, a private citizen now living in New Smyrna Beach, had received from the task force an invitation to speak about his proposed parking lot at E 3rd Ave. and S Atlantic Ave. He presented a diagram of the planned 85-space lot, which is under review by the city and will be considered by the Planning & Zoning Commission in September. After discussion and responses to members questions, the task force adopted a **Motion to support the parking lot project** (which passed unanimously).

NEW BUSINESS

Process for developing recommendations. Assistant City Manager Ron Neibert outlined a proposed process that the task force might adopt to develop its recommendations to the City Commission using a series of overarching questions:

- **Does the city of New Smyrna Beach need additional physical parking spaces?**
 - In the Flagler Avenue district?
 - In the Canal Street district?
- **If so, how many spaces are needed in each area?**
- **What is the preferred method of providing spaces in each area?**
 - Surface lots?
 - Parking garages?
 - Lot sharing?
- **What about the use or promotion of other means or legislative policies?**
 - Taxis, public transportation, or other types of ride sharing
 - Bicycles
- **Factors that need to be considered for surface lots:**
 - Location and size
 - Construction type
 - Purchase or lease the sites
 - Other
- **Factors that need to be considered for parking garages:**
 - Location and size
 - Construction type
 - Additional features offered in design
 - Ownership structure (public, private, combination)
 - Other
- **What programmatic options should be considered:**
 - Trolley, valet and taxi services, public transportation
 - Legislative changes (related to parking or traffic reconfiguration)
 - Tracking & monitoring programs
 - Other
- **What data should be collected?**

- **Financial considerations and revenue generation**
 - Establish business improvement district?
 - Expansion of paid parking? (street parking? all city lots?)
- **Review previous task force recommendations.**
 - Review and re-recommend some items if desired.

Members requested updated maps of parking lots and structures, and potential parcels for such structures including any being proposed or developed by individuals or private-sector entities.

The task force will discuss the format of its report to commission. A discussion among members and staff followed:

Burke brought up the staff summary of the recommendations of the 2020 task force report (available in the City Clerk online archives of PTF documents) which he said outlines a template that the current task force might follow. **Burke moved to use that template as a starting point for developing the new PTF recommendations for Flagler and Canal, which the members passed unanimously.**

Pendergast thinks that the city should establish a parking authority such as a board with a parking administrator.

Burke wants to use the concept of “mobility” which encompasses more than just parking.

Otte thinks that the head of any parking office should be certified by an appropriate national professional organization and should keep up with technology and information and the latest trends.

Neibert asked committee members if they want to make specific recommendations on location for lots and garages, or on the general concept that NSB should have more lots and garages (and let the staff or commission decide that).

Otte thinks the PTF should recommend some high priority areas that should be examined to provide maximum spaces for parking enhancement.

Neibert and Pendergast agreed to meet to discuss the structure of the process and structure of the task force’s next meeting.

Pendergast asked members to make recommendations they would like to submit for consideration to the City Clerk in writing by August 23 who will make them available to the task force members for the August 29 meeting.

TASK FORCE COMMENTS

Additional comments by task force members:

Jones looks forward to reading the March 2020 report and related documents.

Lundberg commented on the boat ramp area parking and on Flagler loading zones markings and that perhaps the signage could be improved for those.

Otte reported that construction on apartments in Venetian Bay has begun and parking has been removed, such that there is likely to be inadequate parking in that area creating a possible crisis for parking in that area.

Neuner wants to make sure the public is involved in the various processes and recommendations and that data will be used to make appropriate decisions.

Pendergast indicated that residents are already paying for parking through the city's oversight and maintenance of parking facilities and spaces, and that if pay parking for spaces were implemented it might actually lighten the load on city resources being applied to parking projects and benefit taxpaying residents and property owners.

Sorese reiterated his interest in working step by step and getting sufficient data such that there could be a series of recommendations that might fill the parking need (i.e., before having to build a parking garage).

Niebert asked again that members consider whether they want to recommend specific parking sites for lots or garages, or would they like to delegate the details of specific parking locations to staff or to a consultant.

Otte indicated that there would be high priority places that should be recommended for consideration by the commission and staff sooner rather than later.

ADJOURNMENT