

PARKING TASK FORCE

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Video of the meeting is [HERE](#). Agenda packet [281-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, City Clerk Kelly McQuillen, Development Services Coordinator Stephanie Ferrara

Discussion and Final Recommendations.

Background: *At the task force's August 15 meeting, Chair Jay Pendergast requested that each member prepare and submit to the other members (via the City Clerk) a list of recommendations for possible inclusion in the task force's final report to the City Commission. These member recommendations are embedded within the Agenda packet: Pendergast (p. 19), Lundberg (20-21), Otte (22-37), Burke (38-39), Neuner (40), Sorese (41), Jones (53). At the current meeting (Sept. 5), members agreed to focus on and draw from Otte's comprehensive document to commence writing the final report, using as a template the two-page summary from the 2020 Flagler Avenue Parking Strategies Report (pp. 92-93 in Agenda packet). Additionally, the task force reviewed items listed in "PTF Final Report Considerations" (pp. 42-52 in Agenda packet), which had been prepared and presented by staff at the task force's August 15 meeting. As members discussed these various items and came to a consensus as to what to include as a recommendation, the attending staff (Neibert, Ferrara, and McQuillen) transcribed simultaneously the first draft of the task force's report.*

Discussion: Tony Otte presented his comprehensive summary by unanimous approval of the members. He began his presentation by suggesting that the task force only include recommendations that are likely to be implemented. He stated that many recommendations in the 2020 parking report were not implemented either because they were too expensive or were likely to generate significant opposition. Otte reviewed the recommendations from all members and developed a summary list of categories (and omitted members' recommendations that in his opinion were either too narrow or likely to find objections).

Recommendations. Jay Pendergast reviewed one by one the "consensus" items that Otte had gleaned from members' recommendations. After discussing each item (sometimes extensively), the members developed consensus for the wording for each recommendation. The recommendations are:

- 1) Formation of (i) a citizens' Parking and Mobility Advisory Board and (ii) a centralized Parking and Mobility Department within the city administration.
- 2) Expansion of paid parking to all city-controlled properties within the confines of the Flagler Street and Canal Street special parking districts.
- 3) Expansion of payment technology that would include data collection capabilities and development of a scaled payment schedule depending on zone and location.
- 4) Develop a standard leasing structure for shared parking with private owners in the special parking districts.
- 5) Establish a shuttle service and/or free transportation system to be operated by direct ownership of the city or through a contractual agreement.
- 6) Encourage and seek partnerships with privately owned businesses or entities that have existing parking lots in the parking districts.
- 7) Hire a temporary advisor/consultant to: (i) evaluate and provide recommendations on payment and tracking technologies, (ii) advise on the formation, structure, and duties of a parking and mobility board and department, and (iii) advise on all signage and marking related to parking and mobility.

Task force members discussed specifics that fall under several of these main recommendations and will add these at the next task force meeting (September 19).

Members reviewed the set of questions posed at its previous and agreed to these answers:

- **Does the city of New Smyrna Beach need additional physical parking spaces?**
 - In the Flagler Avenue district? **ANSWER: Yes**
 - In the Canal Street district? **ANSWER: Yes**

If so, how many spaces are needed in each area?

ANSWER: About 400 in the Canal area and 250 in the Flagler area. Try to fill this need through pay parking, shared parking, and other surface lots and simultaneously collect data to firm up the need. Be smart, make careful decisions, start with easy and least costly options.

- **What is the preferred method of providing spaces in each area?**
 - Lot sharing? **ANSWER: Yes, start in the short term (immediate)**
 - Surface lots? **ANSWER: Yes, start in the short term (immediate)**
 - Parking garages? **ANSWER: Yes, consider for the long term (depending on data)**
- **What about the use or promotion of other means or legislative policies?**
 - Taxis, public transportation, or other types of ride-sharing **ANSWER: TBD by Advisor**
 - Bicycles **ANSWER: TBD by Parking Advisor**
- **Factors that need to be considered for surface lots:**
 - Location and size **ANSWER: TBD by Parking Advisor**
 - Construction type **ANSWER: Unpaved on beach side**
 - Purchase or lease the sites **ANSWER: TBD by Parking Advisor**
- **Factors that need to be considered for parking garages:**
 - Location and size **ANSWER: Not able to decide; insufficient data**
 - Construction type **ANSWER: Not able to decide; insufficient data**
 - Ownership (public, private, combination) **ANSWER: Not able to decide; insufficient data**
- **What programmatic options should be considered:**
 - **ANSWER: Task Force members are in favor of all these options:**
 - Trolley, valet and taxi services, public transportation **ANSWER: TBD by Parking Advisor**
 - Legislative changes (related to parking or traffic reconfiguration) **ANSWER: TBD**
 - Tracking & monitoring programs **ANSWER: ongoing, details by TBD**
- **What data should be collected?**
 - **ANSWER: TBD by Parking Advisor**
- **Financial considerations and revenue generation**
 - Establish business improvement district? **ANSWER: NO**
 - Expansion of paid parking? (Street parking? all city lots?) **ANSWER: Yes, within special parking districts**
- **Review previous task force recommendations.**
 - **ANSWER: Most recommendations have been implemented.**
 - **Of the previous task force recommendations that have not been implemented, the current task force rejected outright:**
 - **recommendation to remove tree islands on Flagler.**
 - **recommendation to remove shuffleboard courts,**
 - **recommendation to establish one-way streets along Esther and Buenos Aires**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A citizen commended the task force. Regarding right of way parking, residents should have rights of way undisturbed unless otherwise in use now. During special events, staff or police should remain in the area past the end of the event while traffic congestion exists on residential streets. Concern should be paid regarding access points for any lots, and certainly for any garages. Consideration should be given to costs to taxpayers.

Another speaker raised a point about technology and data and suggested that monitoring technology could be used to gather usage data.