

MINUTES
CITY CENTER REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE
June 27, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Richard Baumann, John Brewer, Karen Gundersen Olson, Deb Hadcock, Marnie Herrmann, Ron Kroeger, Jack Lynass, Bill Okrepkie, Pat Roseland and Jim Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Hanks, Scott Aust, Michelle Lintz, Don Perdue, James Johns, Marcia Elkins, Monica Heller and Risë Ficken

Chairperson Olson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Anderson moved, Hadcock seconded and unanimously carried to approve the March 27, 2007, May 1, 2007, November 19, 2007, and April 22, 2008 meeting minutes.

Parking Plan

Olson requested that the Task Force review the proposed parking plan and give consideration to forwarding a recommendation to City Council.

Heller reported that the open house held on June 24, 2008 to review the proposed parking plan was well attended. Heller indicated that a number of business owners in areas where ten hour parking was proposed expressed concerns that employees from other areas would use all available client parking. Heller identified the Central Business District noting that off-street parking is not required. Heller identified those areas where off-street parking is required.

Heller reviewed the proposed revisions to the draft parking plan noting efforts to accommodate public comments received. Heller stated that the majority of the changes affected east-west streets in the Central Business District. Heller indicated that the north-south streets in the area will provide four hour parking to address the concerns of shoppers needing more than two hour parking.

Okrepkie entered the meeting at this time.

Heller discussed the impact to the various parking percentages as a result of the proposed revisions. Heller stated that while the revised plan offers a significant increase in four hour parking, ten hour parking has been reduced. Heller indicated that additional long term parking will be provided with the construction of the third level of the Sixth Street parking ramp and with the additional parking area to be constructed east of the City/School Administration Center.

Lynass entered the meeting at this time.

Officer Johns indicated that many of the comments received at the open house related to a request for a more consistent parking plan and the requests from business owners to allow two hour metered parking as opposed to ten hour metered parking in front of their businesses. Officers Johns stated that the proposed revisions address some of the concerns expressed and provides consistency in the Downtown parking overall.

In response to a question from Olson, Officer Johns indicated that owners of residential properties in the southwest corner of the proposed plan area expressed concern that they would

have to pay to park at their homes. Officer Johns advised that each property owner would be issued one on-street parking pass noting that visitors parking on the street would be required to pay the ten hour meter rates during metered hours. Officer Johns stated that concerns were expressed that the ten hour metered parking would push traffic into unregulated areas adjacent to the metered parking areas. Discussion followed.

In response to a question from Olson, Mayor Hanks advised that employees located at Dakota Middle School will be provided with parking passes for designated parking areas during the school year.

Discussion followed concerning the potential to encourage additional use of the existing parking facility on Fifth Street.

Mayor Hanks advised that there will be a 15 minute courtesy button on every parking meter. Discussion followed.

In response to a question from Olson, Mayor Hanks described an electronic slide card that can be used at any parking meter, can be reused and additional funding added to the card as needed. Mayor Hanks stated that the cards can be programmed to reload unused minutes in the event a patron leaves the parking spot before the full time has expired. Discussion followed concerning potential locations for card dispensers/readers.

In response to a question from Olson, Mayor Hanks noted that the core Downtown area is proposed to remain unmetered noting that one courtesy ticket would be issued for a violation during a six-month period in those areas. Mayor Hanks stated that courtesy tickets would not be issues for metered areas.

Discussion followed concerning comments received from YMCA patrons concerning the proposed parking plan.

Anderson stated that the Dahl staff will advocate that the parking area behind the Dahl proposed for leased parking be maintained as the current use for parking for the Dahl and the Church patrons. Anderson indicated that she feels the plan is consistent noting that the north-south, east-west pattern as proposed in the revised draft plan makes sense.

Olson added that education related to the proposed parking plan is important noting that business owners and property owners can help educate patrons as to where parking is available.

In responses to a question from Olson, Mayor Hanks clarified that the ten hour parking meters can be used for less than 10 hours, depending on how much money is deposited in the meter. Discussion followed concerning meter refunds for electronic card users.

In response to a question from Herrmann, Heller advised that the color-coding on the meters could be limited to the face of a meter, a portion of the meter or could include the entire meter casing.

In response to a question from Herrmann, Mayor Hanks stated the draft parking plan as revised will generate additional revenue noting that all funding derived from the parking meters will

remain in the parking lot area fund. Mayor Hanks stated that the funding will be used to provide additional parking in the Downtown area.

In response to a question from Roseland, Mayor Hanks indicated that a change to the time-period for metered parking has not been discussed.

Anderson requested that signs restricting available parking between certain hours should be evaluated, especially near the Dahl.

In response to a question from Anderson, Mayor Hanks stated that the City Center Revitalization Task Force can make a recommendation to approve the draft parking plan as revised and forward that recommendation to the Legal and Finance Committee or the revised draft plan could be referred back to the Parking Subcommittee for another public hearing and comment period.

Olson suggested that another public hearing on the proposed plan may be helpful.

Purdue stated that he is not opposed to the colored meters noting that the revised draft parking plan appears to be a good long-term plan.

Discussion followed concerning the possibility that the Federal Building may eventually be expanded, the need for additional parking at some point in the future and the need for four hour parking in front of the Federal Building to accommodate hearings exceeding the two hour time period.

Hadcock spoke in support of the proposed color-coded meter heads. Discussion followed concerning various options for color-coding the meters, the interchangeability of meter parts and the usefulness of sample meters.

Brewer moved and Okrepkie seconded to recommend approval of the revised draft parking plan to the Legal and Finance Committee.

Heller advised that the revised draft parking plan would be posted on the Internet and the Parking Subcommittee participants would be notified of the Task Force's recommendation.

Lynass spoke in support of the proposed parking plan noting that at the BankWest location there is no employee parking located within a reasonable walking distance. Lynass discussed current practices using the bank vehicle for employee activities emphasizing the lack of available long-term parking. Lynass expressed his hope that the long-term parking issues in the Downtown area can be addressed at some point in the future.

Mayor Hanks requested that a copy of the revised draft parking plan be provided to the Rapid City Journal. Mayor Hanks noted that while the revised draft parking plan is intended to change behavior, the reality is that more parking is needed. Mayor Hanks expressed his hope that the revenue generated under the plan will provide a means to develop additional parking Downtown.

Olson suggested that it should be emphasized that the revenue generated under the proposed parking plan is a dedicated source that will be used to provide additional parking.

The motion unanimously carried to recommend approval of the revised draft parking plan to the Legal and Finance Committee.

Destination Rapid City

John Brewer advised that the organizational meeting of the Destination Rapid City Economic Development Corporation is scheduled to be held on July 14, 2008. Brewer reported that the Task Force recently completed its work on the Sidewalk Café Ordinance noting that the draft ordinance will be considered by the Legal and Finance Committee on July 2, 2008. Brewer expressed his appreciation to staff for their work and assistance on the draft ordinance. Brewer reported on his attendance at the Montana Downtown Conference and a recent meeting in Sioux Falls with Dan Statema, Executive Director of Downtown Sioux Falls.

Brewer indicated that discussions have been initiated related to the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Omaha Street noting that Bryan Vulcan and Steve McCarthy are co-leading a design/construction plan. Brewer discussed the anticipated impact from The Dahl renovation/construction project for use as a meeting facility, arts destination and contribution to the development of the Downtown brand.

Brewer stated that Destination Rapid City has submitted suggestions related to the proposed Downtown parking plan noting that all parking in the Downtown Sioux Falls area is metered parking. Brewer advised that the Rapid City Downtown Association will have a voting seat on the Destination Rapid City Board and will be working with Destination Rapid City primarily on marketing, events and festivals. Brewer reviewed the results of a recent stakeholder survey noting that parking improvements was ranked as the number one issue.

Discussion followed.

Rushmont Project Report

Mayor Hanks advised that an update from Hani Shafai concerning The Rushmont project is anticipated in the next several weeks. Discussion followed concerning the potential to require a deadline for the submission of a project report, the impact the proposed project will have on the plans currently being developed for the Downtown plaza and additional parking, and the alternatives for use of the property in the event that Shafai does not move forward with the project.

Task Force Status

Olson stated that it appears that the Task Force has completed its work noting that the Destination Rapid City organization and Rapid City Downtown Association are now working together to move Downtown Revitalization forward.

Brewer commented that the City Center Revitalization Task Force has led a great community discussion noting that work will continue to build on the issues discussed. Brewer suggested that a letter from the Chairperson summarizing the work of the Task Force along with the minutes of the Task Force meetings be made available on-line. Discussion followed.

Brewer moved and Hadcock seconded to make available on-line a letter from the Chairperson summarizing the Task Force's findings along with all meeting minutes of the City Center Revitalization Task Force.

Anderson expressed her appreciation for the ability to converse with the diverse groups represented by the Task Force membership. Anderson encouraged Destination Rapid City to maintain the excellent communication with the various groups represented on the Task Force.

Brewer emphasized Destination Rapid City's role as an umbrella organization noting the need for continued communication with all stakeholders.

The motion unanimously carried to make available on-line a letter from the Chairperson summarizing the Task Force's findings along with all meeting minutes of the City Center Revitalization Task Force.

Olson thanked the Task Force members for their dedication on behalf of the Rapid City community.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.