

Minutes
Washington Avenue Stakeholder Meeting
September 14, 2011

Mayor opened the meeting with introductions of CM Ed Gonzalez and staff in attendance. Stated the purpose of the meeting was to solicit input in regards to on-street and off-street parking for Washington Avenue.

Don Pagel gave a presentation in regards to parking concerns and proposed 3 parking plan options:

1. New signage
2. New signage and meters
3. Establish a parking benefit district

The proposal for alternatives 2 & 3 could more than double the number of available parking spaces – currently 225 spaces with a net result of 603 open spaces.

One year ago the planning department analyzed all the bars/clubs along Washington Ave and they are all currently meeting the parking requirements.

Several residents in attendance expressed concern in regards to employees who work for the establishments in the area who park in private business parking lots and school parking lots.

Concern was also raised in regards to valet parking – the Mayor stated that the city could consider expanding the valet parking ordinance to the Washington Corridor.

One citizen suggested that the installation of taxi cab stands could prevent cabs from circling blocks along Washington waiting for fares.

Consensus of stakeholders in attendance was to move forward with new signage. The Mayor authorized Jeff Weatherford to proceed immediately with the installation of new signage which allows off street parking along Washington Avenue installing new signs which allows parking along Washington Avenue only during off-peak hours.

CM Gonzalez spoke on the benefits of creating a Parking Benefits District. Creation of the district would put more boots on the ground for parking management. The funds collected by the Parking Benefits District are distributed 60% back to the community and 40% for administrative costs. The district would provide for improved sidewalks/crosswalks and provide for more walk-ability.

In conclusion, new signage will be installed immediately; the Mayor tasked Marlene Gafrick with getting more accurate numbers on parking capacity along Washington Avenue; creation of a website where feedback can be gathered; The Mayor asked for an evaluation of Center Street.