

AD-HOC PARKING COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 9, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held via Hybrid Method

Committee Members: Vicki Carmean, Chair; Pat Schuchman, Town Manager; William Clark, Fenwick Business Owner & Resident; Virginia Davidson, Seashell City Owner & Resident; Scott Mumford, Warren's Station Owner; Ed Bishop, Resident; Kurt Zanelotti, Resident ; Ann Riley, Resident

Other Town Officials: Chief Devlin, Mike Locke, Police Clerk Erin Ellinger, Town Administrator Raelene Menominee

Public: Along with Committee members and Staff there were 6 in-person attendees and 15 people via Zoom.

Mayor Carmean called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

- General discussion by committee members:** How the Town of Fenwick Island “evolved” from religious campground to squatters claiming land for \$200 and \$250 per lot from State in 1940's to town formation in 1953. No real planning with clear vision of future with 280 (?) current full-time residents that expands during the summer season to 5 or 6 thousand visitors. Parking is a major problem for commercial and residential zones, especially from mid-June to mid-August: “Required” parking in ordinances does not provide “adequate” parking for restaurants and stores.
 - **Residential:** Limited parking with large driveway openings, increased trash & traffic with visitors looking for available spots & making U-turns in driveways. No place for guests to park in the streets.
 - **Commercial:** overflow customers from inadequate store parking lots; more employees driving to work due to demographic changes and fewer places in town for them to stay. Problem with U-turns into Seashell City lot due to location of DeIDOT crosswalk and no U-turn sign. Chief Devlin assured public that the Town is trying to address this with DeIDOT but no solution has been planned. Also noted are issues developing around commercial owners trying to use residential properties for parking employees and possibly customers.
- Solutions?**
 - **Future construction:** (Vicki C.) Need for Town to adopt County parking requirements plus require an off-street loading area. No exemptions for seating at bars and decks.
 - **Some Acceptance:** (Scott M.) Fenwick is a beach town with heavy traffic and parking problems for 8 weeks in summer. Warren's employees over 100 w/ as many as 35 to 40 employees on one shift & has seating for 225 w/ 71 parking spots.
 - **Prohibit large driveway openings.**
 - **Are there unused parking places** (Ann R.) that could be used for restaurant employees?

- **Street Striping:** Mike Locke explained how spaces will be delineated to make sure vehicles do not use more parking space than necessary.
3. **Assignment:** Between now and the next meeting, committee members will look for “available” unused places that could be used for parking employees. Several possibilities were mentioned and dismissed including the Chamber Parking lot.
4. **Public Participation:**
- **Janice Bortner:** proposed an increase in parking fees.
 - **Barbara Ievoli:** noted certain beach ends are so much wider than others. Asked if there was a way to make certain beach ends parking on both sides. Mrs. Ievoli sees more of a problem during the day.
 - **Gail Warburton:** outside seating should be included in customer parking ratio.
 - **Geri Verlaque:** noted there were very few bicycle racks in Town.
 - **G. Hunter:** Houston Street home has been in family for 40+ years. He said owners on his streets are constructing a parking lot for guests/employees of the hotel. Asked why Council would not proceed with the ordinance introduced at the March 4th Town Council meeting.
 - **Ginny Scheppler:** wants the family-centered imprint to remain.
 - **Council Member Magdeburger:** Town is addressing commercial parking on residential lots.
 - **Stephen Hunter:** upset with commercial parking attempt on residential lot.
 - **Jo Haring:** thinks the employee parking on the Mumford residential lot is fine.
 - **Paul Breger:** commercial and residential parking should not be integrated.
 - **Jack Pyne:** would like to see expanded hours of parking permits and raising parking fees.
5. **Future Meeting:** Monday, May 16th at 2:30pm
6. **Adjourned:** *MOTION* by Ann Riley to adjourn at 3:37pm. Virginia Davidson seconded.
MOTION unanimously passed.