

**FIRST HILL PARKING WORKGROUP: 12TH AVENUE FOCUS
WALKING TOUR
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
DRAFT SUMMARY**

Attendees:

Lori Christianson,

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Michael Fry, mfry@seattleacademy.org

Mike Leonard, mikel@murrayfranklyn.com

Jerry Pederson, pederson@seattleu.edu

Jennifer Schramm, jschramm@pcnw.org

Michael Sletter, sletter@seattleu.edu

Meghan Shepard,

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Bill Zosel, wmzosel@aol.com

Purpose:

The attendees were brought together by Bill Zosel, who originally approached the City of Seattle in early 2002 with ideas to improve the management of on-street parking spaces in the First Hill neighborhood, specifically around 12th Avenue. A bicycle and pedestrian improvement project along 12th Avenue will result in the loss of on-street parking spaces, but their loss can be compensated for through better management of existing on-street spaces. The goal of the walking tour was to identify those opportunities where on-street regulations could be added or changed to create more spaces or to increase the turnover of exiting spaces. Future steps in the “Making the Parking System Work Program” include:

- ◆ Prioritize the Workplan
- ◆ Address On-Street Management Issues
- ◆ Address Off-Street Management Issues
- ◆ Address Access & Mobility Issues
- ◆ Create Workgroup Initial Recommendations
- ◆ Present Initial Recommendations to the public for input
- ◆ Implement Final Recommendation

Draft Goal Statement:

The goal of the “Making the Parking System Work” program in First Hill is to:

- ◆ Develop a plan and implement a desirable combination of on-street parking regulations for customers, residents and institution users on First Hill
- ◆ Explore opportunities to better utilize the neighborhood’s limited off-street parking opportunities through car-sharing, lot-sharing, education, outreach, and other transportation demand management tools
- ◆ Use 12th Avenue’s issues as an introduction for future efforts to address neighborhood-wide parking and mobility concerns

Discussion Points:

- ◆ Jennifer Schramm’s concern is that the needs of the Northwest Photographic Center are at odds with the other residential and commercial uses. Many of their classes are three hours long, their lot is inadequate, and public pay lots have almost completely disappeared as the neighborhood has redeveloped. They have had difficulty sharing spaces in private garages because of the inconveniences caused by security measures.

- ◆ Jerry Pederson, Seattle University, said that because the University controls significant block faces, they would like a plan to be in place before they proceed in their support of changes to on-street parking regulations.
- ◆ The current streetscape and pedestrian improvements on 12th Avenue will result in the loss of on-street parking spaces.
- ◆ Additional paylots in the neighborhood, such as the Diamond-managed lot, will be lost to future development. There are spaces available at the Bank of America and Copy Center lot, but only at night.
- ◆ There are apartment buildings without off-street parking likely to be affected by changes to on-street regulations. At 13th and Union, one uses an informal arrangement to use parking in a nearby lot that will disappear with redevelopment.
- ◆ Lori Christianson and Mike Leonard, of Murray Franklyn, said they have had numerous complaints from the retail tenants of their mixed-use buildings about the lack of on-street parking. They are considering a proposal for Diamond Parking to manage the surface lot of their new building, with garage parking rented out on a monthly basis to commercial or residential tenants.
- ◆ Jennifer Schramm, Michael Fry and Michael Sletter all expressed interest in the CarSmart trip-reduction grant program. Information about it will be forwarded to them.

Initial Areas of Opportunity Identified in the Walking Tour:

Parking Meter Ideas

- ◆ Install meters on 12th Avenue from Madison Street south
- ◆ Install meters on specific cross streets including Columbia and Cherry

Adding/Changing Parking Restriction Ideas

- ◆ Install one, two or four hour restrictions on currently unrestricted parking spaces adjacent to commercial uses
- ◆ Change Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) permitted parking hours from 2 to 0 hours

Potential New Space Ideas

- ◆ Install angled parking on 13th Avenue
- ◆ Convert load zone on 13th Avenue south of Cherry to on-street parking space
- ◆ Use the school load zone adjacent to Seattle Academy on E. Spring Street for summer-only restricted parking
- ◆ Convert the load zone on the west side of 12th Avenue, north of E. Cherry Street, to restricted parking depending upon the future needs of Seattle University for the residential building there

Next Steps:

- ◆ By mid-October, Meghan will use the results of the walking tour and the work done by Seattle University students to finalize the “existing conditions” map and the “areas of opportunity” map
- ◆ Bill will convene another meeting once the maps are ready for discussion
- ◆ Swedish and Providence Hospitals will be invited to join in at a larger meeting