

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

FOR: COLUMBIA CITY PARKING WORKGROUP

DATE: JULY 30, 2002, COLUMBIA CITY LIBRARY, 5:30 – 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Monica Hiatt, Resident
Justine Kim, Seattle Public Library
Karen Kinney, Columbia City Business
Association (CCBA)
Tracy Krawczyk, Seattle Department of
Transportation (SDOT)

Meghan Shepard, SDOT
Ryan Singer, SDOT
Mary Jo Torgeson, Columbia Library
Eric Tweit, Columbia City Revitalization
Committee (CCRC)
Geoff Wentlandt, Homesight

ACTION ITEMS

- The next meeting will be held at 7:00 on September 17th in the Columbia City Library.
- The agenda will focus on problem definition and preliminary solution evaluation.
- Staff will bring maps that can be written on and a description of Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) requirements.

MEETING SUMMARY

Update: After introductions, Ryan recapped previous events for “Making Neighborhood Parking Work – Columbia City”, including the April Kick-Off Meeting and the June Walking Tour. He stated the purpose of tonight’s meeting is to take the parking issues identified at these previous events, prioritize them, and develop a workplan for the group to execute.

Justine and Mary Jo explained the expansion of the Columbia Library scheduled for fall 2002. Because of the building’s landmark status and location adjacent to the park property, no additional parking is required or possible on the site. A draft parking study has been completed for the Master Use Permit (MUP) by Heffron Transportation. According to the initial results, 72% of library patrons drive and 27% walk, bike or take the bus. The initial conclusion of the study is that even with the expansion, the existing supply of on and off-street parking meets the demand. As spaces in the existing lot will be designated for patron and not employee use, the library is concerned about the shortage of employee parking. They investigated leasing spaces in the Columbia Plaza Parking Lot but decided not to pursue due to safety issues and because only a short-term lease was available.

Goal Review: Ryan reviewed the potential parking goals he distributed prior to the meeting:

- Manage on-street parking for short-term use
- Add on-street parking capacity where possible for customer use
- Ease bus parking and traffic-flow congestion around Orca School
- Improve off-street lot visibility

- Educate residents west of Rainier Ave. S. about their options for dealing with potential Sound Transit light rail station impacts. Sound Transit will perform a parking study before and after the station opens and, based on the results, mitigation measures may be proposed. The parking workgroup will assist in the development and presentation of educational materials for area residents.
- Recruit a wide selection of interested individuals to participate in the parking workgroup.

Other goals mentioned by the group are:

- Due to parking impacts caused by regularly held events such as the weekly Farmer's Market and monthly Beatwalk, Monica recommended that residential parking zones (RPZs) be added. Ryan explained the requirements for an RPZ. Karen asked that a handout of those criteria be created for the next meeting. She also requested that the residential area north of 33rd/34th be included in Sound Transit's study. Monica asked if residents would have to wait for that study before pursuing an RPZ designation. Ryan said that was not necessary, as the study will not occur until prior to the light rail line construction. However, a delay will be caused by a shortage of City funding available for RPZ studies. If Columbia City decides this is an important tool, they could be placed on the City's waiting list. Tracy said that it might be possible to use the TDM grant funds to fund the RPZ study and there will be funds available from Sound Transit, though maybe not as soon as the community would like.
- Eric said that some work has been done already to improve the visibility of off-street lots.
- The group discussed the feasibility of using shuttles to access the library from other parking lots in the neighborhood.

Workplan Review: Ryan asked for assistance in prioritizing the goals into a workplan to help staff prepare information for the next meeting.

- Ryan recommended that for August the workgroup investigate better managing off-street parking for short-term use. Karen said that on the June walking tour, they found a portion of the block on 37th between Edmonds and Ferdinand that could be converted to short-term parking. She discussed this with Parcel and Post and they liked the idea. She has not yet contacted Correas Plumbing. Geoff expressed concerns about paving in the planting strip and impacts on traffic flow.
- The workgroup discussed next steps and how adequate community involvement could be obtained to implement recommendations such as those mentioned above. Ryan and Tracy explained that some parking improvements could be implemented immediately while others would require signed petitions from property or business owners. Both implemented and recommended parking changes would be presented at a parking forum in early 2003.
- Monica wanted to ensure that adequate resident involvement would occur. Her concern is that the measures discussed tonight to manage on-street parking are only band-aids. She would like to see the group go further and get to the root of the parking problem. An overall plan should be developed before quick solutions are sought. Karen agreed. The first agenda item for the next meeting will be problem definition.

For more information, please contact Meghan Shepard, Seattle Department of Transportation, at 206.684.4208 or meghan.shepard@ci.seattle.wa.us.