



# PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall – Birch Conference Room – 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Microsoft Teams Meeting – Conference ID: 686 821 000#  
PO Box 1995 – Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995  
[www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

Ryan Morin, Garrett Ginter, Doug Varenas, Kurt Stonex

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***May 24, 2023***

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The May 24, 2023, meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:10 A.M. by Ryan Morin in the Birch Room of City Hall, 415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, Washington and virtually. Gabe Montez, Parking District Manager, announced that Stephanie Lynn, resigned as chair and from the committee. An email was sent yesterday to the committee announcing this. An interim chair will need to be elected.

**Present:** Ryan Morin, Garrett Ginter, Kurt Stonex, Doug Varenas  
**Absent:** none  
**Staff:** Teresa Brum, Patrick Quinton, Gabriel Montez, Philip Gigler, Tina Picchioni, Ryan Lopossa, Julie Arenz

Kurt Stonex nominated Ryan Morin for interim chair, seconded by Garrett Ginter. Nomination of Ryan Morin for interim chair unanimously passed.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR AND STAFF**

Montez introduced himself and provided context and history about himself and his experience.

### **HEARING: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Varenas motioned, seconded by Stonex, to approve the February 22, 2023, minutes. Motion unanimously passed.

### **WORKSHOP: WORKSHOP: MAIN STREET PROMISE**

Teresa Brum, Deputy Economic Development Director, Ryan Lopossa, Transportation Division Manager, and Julie Arenz, Small Business Project Manager, presented a detailed presentation providing the project overview including improvements and funding, project goals and guiding principles, climate action plan, equity priorities, parking analysis, program elements, project timeline, and community engagement.

Arenz stated that there will be three open houses for this project for public comment. We have already gone through one open house and will be going into open house number two on June 8th at the Vancouver Library at 4:00 p.m.

Arenz stated that we will not be losing any parking.

Stonex asked if there was any time estimation on construction.

Lopossa stated that we have not had a chance to exactly pin down the duration of the construction. Once we get to about a ninety percent design, then our team will be able to start figuring out how many working days it will take. Estimated that the project will start in Spring '24 and will take most of next year to complete the project. A lot is going to revolve around how we package the project and phase the project, trying to minimize the impact that the construction activities will have on the downtown environment. The goal is to get the project done with the absolute least impact on the downtown businesses and folks that come into the downtown.

Brum stated that another impact will be the bridge construction. The goal is to finish the project prior to the beginning of the bridge construction, estimated right now to begin in 2026. Hope to use some of the lessons that we learn from this project and how we minimize the impact to businesses and then apply those same lessons to the bridge construction.

Ginter asked if there any potential impact from what the bridge is looking like.

Lopossa stated that the Main Street project and the bridge project are cohesively working together. The bridge project does call for the eventual extension of Main Street from 5th down to Columbia Way, so having conversations with the bridge team on what that extension would look like and how that would be complemented or how that would complement the work that we're doing. But the current design of the bridge doesn't have any footprint or impact on the Main St corridor that would alter the direction we're moving in.

Ginter asked if there any consideration in the design process to add in infrastructure elements to turn some of these blocks maybe into full on pedestrian zones at certain times or anything similar.

Lopossa stated that that's the direction we're really moving in with the entire corridor. This curbsless design that's incorporated into the into the project will allow us to have flexibility in completely closing off one or more blocks of the corridor. Right now, it would be more for short-term events like festivals and weekend activities but as we move into the future if there's a desire on the part of the community to start to close off blocks of Main Street to traffic altogether. We're setting the stage to be able to do that and really just to create an environment where pedestrians can move freely throughout the corridor. It's all about how we program it in the future but what we're doing now with the design of the project is creating that potential.

Montez asked if the project has the ability to take into consideration side streets that could potentially be parallel spaces, vertical spaces, angled spaces.

Lopossa stated the development that's occurring along Main Street between 12th and 13th, we initially identified those side streets as having the potential to convert from the existing parallel to angle. That developer is now proposing that as a part of that project. We are looking at some other streets where that could potentially happen depending on what happens with the bridge project and the downtown freeway connections, there might be opportunities on 6th St to potentially do that. We may be able to reduce the number of lanes since we won't have traffic coming off the freeway into 6th St. We've looked at each of the side streets to see if there's opportunity.

Montez asked if the ADA spaces, when converting to a parallel, will provide buffer zones to be used for loading and unloading on Main Street.

Lopossa stated that we should definitely look at that. What's nice is without the curb and with that walk off zone almost every spot will have somewhat of a buffered loading area.

#### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Morin opened Public Communications and hearing no testimony requests from the public closed Public Communications.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

9:00 A.M.

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Ryan Morin, Interim Chair

Meetings of the Parking Advisory Committee are electronically recorded on audio. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.



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City Manager's Office  
(360) 487-8600 | WA Relay: 711  
[Amanda.Delapena@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Amanda.Delapena@cityofvancouver.us)