

City of Port Orchard

Public Property Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Present: Chair Fred Olin, & Committee members, Fred Chang & Carolyn Powers. City Staff present: Public Works Director Mark Dorsey, City Clerk Patti Kirkpatrick, Police Chief Al Townsend, and Development Director James Weaver. Guest Tim Matthes.

Chair Olin called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M.

City Parking Issues: Mark Dorsey, City Engineer / Public Works Director discussed the recent requests for changes to the existing City Parking requirements. Four issues related to parking were discussed by the Committee.

A: Parking Petition @ Sage Court: A request was submitted with a petition for the removal of the "no parking" signs along one side of the street for Sage Court. The reasoning provided with the request was that there was insufficient public parking for families, guests, and visitors within the subdivision. It was noted that the existing roadway right-of-way and historical design of the subdivision provided narrower streets than those currently required within the City road standards, which most likely was the original reason for the installation of the existing signage. The committee reviewed the request and noted that the petition included the majority of property owners within the affected area. Concerns arose regarding the ability for fire, emergency services, and garbage trucks to be able to negotiate the street with the increased on-street parking. The Committee generally supported the request and petition, but comments were requested to be collected from the impacted South Kitsap Fire and Rescue District and Waste Management, prior to any formal decisions. The item was referred to the January 2012 City Council work study meeting for discussion prior to final recommendation of support and inclusion of changes to the area parking.

B: Parking Request @ Advantage Avenue: A request to rescind a signature from a petition relating to parking on Advantage Avenue was submitted to the Committee. The petition was submitted with the majority of the residents and filed on May 5, 2010. The Committee had reviewed the original petition and supported the proposed parking changes to City Council. On June 27, 2010, City Council adopted Resolution 023-10 which responded to the petition to allow parking on the north side of Advantage Avenue and reflected the recommendation of support from the Public Property Committee. Since the effective date of the proposed parking change, the request indicates that citizens other than the property owner have now parked on the public street in front of the property owner's home. The requestor now recanted the original support for the petition and requested to remove his name from the petition. The Committee considered the request, but did note that the removal of the single name did not impact the overwhelming majority of support for the original parking changes that were enacted by Resolution 023-10 and that no other complaints or problems had been identified. It was also noted that public parking on City Streets was reasonable and is allowed to any citizen and additionally that no exclusive private parking may be provided on public streets. A letter was requested to be drafted and sent to the citizen explaining the issue relating to the petition and regarding the limitations of the City in accommodating the private parking request on a public street.

C: Parking Request @ Frederick: A request for a residential parking permit exemption for the on-street two hour limit to be issued for the exclusive use for an apartment residence on Frederick Street, due to the lack of a private driveway on the property. The request alternatively proposed that an accessible parking space be provided directly in front of the private residence. The present parking restrictions were for two hour parking and it was acknowledged that given the historical usage of public parking for both private residences on Prospect Street and adjacent businesses on Bay Street, that the amount of on-street public parking is extremely limited at certain times. The Committee considered the request and noted that the parking restrictions were originally placed in effect to benefit the neighborhood from the parking impacts for both citizens and businesses. The on-street parking limit was intended to ensure that citizens could park while long term occupancy of the few on-street public parking spaces was minimized. The Committee discussed the history of the parking issue within the neighborhood and the concern regarding equivalent benefit of parking for all citizens on the street. The Committee also considered the request for an accessible parking space at that location, but ultimately it was deemed unable to be provided due to the existing steepness of Frederick Street and that any accessible space located on that steep of a street would not be able to meet ADA requirements. A letter was requested to be drafted and sent to the citizen explaining the history of parking on the street and the limitations of the City in accommodating the private parking request on the public street.

D: Parking Request @ 514 Bay Street: A complaint was received by the Public Works Department regarding the lack of public parking signage for the spaces located at 514 Bay Street. The request was for signage to be installed at this location to allow public parking for the citizens and business located adjacent to this area and to clearly identify any parking restrictions or requirements. The Committee reviewed the request and discussed the surrounding parking, the parking at this particular site, and proposed solutions. The Committee recommended that additional parking signage be installed to clearly communicate the parking restrictions that applied within the area.

City Parks Commission Proposal: Committee Chair discussed the proposal for establishing a City Parks Commission. RCW 35.23.170 provides for cities and towns to provide for a board of park Commissioners, not to exceed seven in number, to be appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council, from citizens of recognized fitness for such position. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City on the general supervision and management of all City Parks and recreational facility and programs. The drafted Ordinance proposes to reestablish Port Orchard Municipal Code Section 2.24 to create a Port Orchard Park Commission. The Committee discussed the proposal and cited their concerns for the increased staff workload to accommodate the Commission, as well as the ability to provide funding for the commission and/or staff to support the commission. Noting the economy and current financial condition of the City projected in the upcoming year, the Committee expressed concerns regarding the creation of an additional advisory board when the resources to accommodate the board would be scarce in 2012. Additional items raised was relating to the role of the Public Property Committee if a Parks Commission were established and how the long range direction for City Parks would be addressed by the Commission, while day to day direction of staff resources could remain under Public Property Committee review. The item was already scheduled for additional discussion at the City Council meeting the evening of the December 13, 2011, but the Committee recommendation was

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for the item to be postponed and discussed at the Council Retreat in 2012, and was also proposed to be included on a future work study meeting, prior to being before the Council for adoption in 2012.

With that discussion, Chair Olin closed the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 AM
Next Meeting: Will be determined at a later date
cc: Council, City Attorney, Mayor, and Department Heads