

NW Parking SAC | Friendly House
February 20, 2019 | 1737 NW 26th Ave.
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Portland, OR 97210

Meeting Notes

Members in Attendance

Daniel Anderson, Nick Fenster, Jeanne Harrison, Lisa Higgins, Karen Karlsson, Parker McNulty, Rick Michaelson (Chair), Thomas Ranieri, Peter Rose, Don Singer, Mark Stromme, Ron Walters

Members Absent

Brent Soffey

PBOT Staff

Antonina Pattiz, Kathryn Doherty-Chapman - NW SAC Liaison

Public in Attendance

Allan Classen, Piseth Pich, Frank Dixon, Greg Theisen, Melinda Wagner

Public Comment

Melinda from First Emmanuel noticed the SAC will be discussing parking permits. She asks the SAC to consider lower-priced nonprofit permits for volunteers.

CTMP Update

Ron shares that the new stadium is slated to open June 1st. The draft Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan (CTMP) will be ready for a 30-day comment period next week. Comments received between now and next week will be incorporated into the draft plan. He shares a letter that outlines input received thus far. He points out that details about *how* the proposed solutions will be implemented is lacking.

The SAC asked questions and shared concerns about the current draft of the CTMP including:

- Funding from the Timbers for these actions and solutions in the plan, where is it?
- Details on who, when and how of many of these actions are lacking. They would like to see a project manager hired.
- Marketing and communications are very important for this plan to work and the SAC doesn't see that reflected adequately in the plan.
- Changing the restricted zone, times and pricing can be confusing to NW visitors and there are lot of issues to discuss around that before any changes could be considered.
- Concern over the timeline, is this realistic to have these things implemented by opening day?

Kathryn has been in constant contact with OMF and Nelson Nygaard and is coordinating a meeting with the Libby, the consultant coordinating the plan, OMF, and PBOT managers to discuss the plan details.

Jeanne shares the following concerns on behalf of the NW District transportation committee.

- The committee shares concerns about giving up parking spaces for pick-up/drop-off sites for Uber/LYFT.
- The committee agrees with Karen's comments about monitoring and data collection. She requests specific details about how data will be collected and changes monitored.
- Line 24 goes to Providence Park MAX stop and stops service at 8pm, and the service will not be frequent. She heard from TriMet that this is a mistake and they will try to extend that service but that will not be done by June 1.
 - Kathryn says she heard that TriMet was working on cost estimates for the SAC.
- There's a severe policy conflict with the NW District Plan by encouraging any Timbers fans to park in the neighborhood. There's an issue with having hundreds of parking spaces allocated to Timbers fans who aren't from the neighborhood. The only way to keep Timbers fans from parking on-street is to raise parking fees during games. Until that's done, there will be just as many people parking on the street as are parking in the garage.

Ron asks for clarification since he does not agree with the interpretation of the NW District Plan policy.

Don: "I want to ask Ron why you disagree with Jeanne because I find that interesting. My first reaction was that's all good if you believe that you will get the NW District Plan does includes this. But that should be a living document and times have changed. We've really wanted to expand shared parking, so how can we accomplish that? And if the NW District Plan is standing in the way for a need that can be resolved then we go in and make modifications to the plan like we did with shared parking. Two questions, what basis is your disagreement and Jeanne? And have you brought this up to Joan Freidrickson (from BPS) and what were her thoughts?"

Ron answers that the position adopted by the transportation committee conflicts with the feedback he received earlier. He disagrees with the argument that the district plan prohibits shared parking opportunities for Timbers fans. Policy 4 recommends making efficient use of existing off-street parking. In the plan elements overview, the plan states the following: "To meet future demand the District may eventually develop a limited number of small parking structures on sites identified in the 2003 NW District Plan. It is recommended that accessory lots within the commercial zone be allowed to provide public or shared paid-parking arrangements.

Ron doesn't believe the NW District Plan was trying to keep private businesses from allowing parking in the neighborhood. He thinks it was meant to get commuters off the street and to prevent Timbers fans from parking on street.

Rick points out that the purpose of shared parking is to disallow commuter parking.

Kathryn provides some background on the Shared Use Parking application from Legacy. The first shared parking application received from Legacy was for general visitor parking but lacked detail on hours and days when it would open. When she requested more detail on the application it was learned that parking would only be available for Timbers fans during gamedays and that changes things. The new application was specifically for Timbers fans for Timbers game days only, which does not meet the requirements set forth in the administrative rules. Either way, the SAC must review and discuss the application, since they are the body to deliberate and decide on these issues.

Comments on Timbers & parking

- The emphasis should be on Timbers fans parking Downtown, not in NW.
- The Timbers need project manager and should use fan location data to direct marketing of parking and transportation info specifically for them to park elsewhere.
- Should increased traffic from Providence Park be discouraged in NW?
- Nick mentions that Portland Community College (PCC) by Killingsworth, has a specific prohibition from students and staff parking in the neighborhood. He asks if it's possible to prevent certain users from parking in NW.
 - Kathryn says she will research that idea.

Don: "I like Karen's idea of positive reinforcement through behavior rather than sticks. I am all for directing people downtown and giving them swag bags- something for going there. But for as much as you're going to promote that, you're still going to have spillover. I think we can encourage them as much as we want but we have to have the city and TriMet on as a partner to make all the effective. And the transportation committee recognizes that you're still going to get spillover. I think you have to recognize that you're going to have it, now it's a question of how we're going to deal with it. I've heard complaints about people walking through the neighborhood to and from the game. If we begin to let parking facilities be used in the neighborhood I think conditions would have to be established. Where we say, if that's what they want to do, the Timbers provide trolleys or shuttles between the garages and games so we don't have a bunch of people walking through the neighborhood at 10 at night."

Action

- Dan makes a motion to approve Ron's draft letter.
- Karen is willing to second the motion but only if the letter is amended to include the changes mentioned earlier.

Ron says the SOC has encouraged the Timbers to hire a project manager. He says it would be helpful to have a specific list of demands from the SAC that shows their disapproval of the current CTMP without certain conditions being met.

Kathryn mentions that the draft CTMP recommends expanding the restricted event area, she asks for feedback from the SAC.

Comments on expanding the Event Restricted Area:

- Don: "You can expand it all the way to Vaughn and make the entire neighborhood suffer equally because it's not fair. Honestly, we didn't want to all the way to Irving where it is now."
- Timbers taking up all the on-street parking prevents regular NW customers from parking and getting to businesses. The SAC should focus on parking solutions for people who *should be* parking in the neighborhood, not Timbers fans. We should find a way to encourage Timbers to park in specific areas.
- It's fine to evaluate changing the event area in the future, but there is not enough time to do that in time for June 1st, 2019 opening day.
- Jeanne clarifies that the NW District transportation committee is recommending that Legacy's parking garage not be used for Timbers only during the 2019 season. It won't be possible to tell what is causing the behavior we want if we have so many different things on the table.
- Ron says he'd like to see the Legacy garage open for visitors even during non-Timbers games.
- Mark thinks the SAC should ask in the letter that the Timbers utilize all downtown garages and provide incentives to do so. He thinks the letter should be sent with the caveat that the SAC's approval is dependent on the conditions previously discussed being met. If the SAC can't meet those needs, they'll need to hire a project manager.

Dan accepts the friendly amendment for the letter.

Action

The SAC members vote to approve Ron's letter:

- **9 members vote in favor**
- **Parker does not vote**
- **Jeanne opposes**
- **Ron abstains**

Shared Parking Application Review

Kathryn distributes Legacy's shared parking application. The original application from Legacy listed general visitor parking. She sent the application to BPS/BDS and asked about the Timbers, BPS said it was up to the SAC to require specific conditions. Kathryn requested more detail from Legacy and the updated application is specifically for a pilot with the Timbers organization.

Questions/comments on the application:

- The SAC paid for a parking meters at one of the lots, is this lot in the application? If so, it should be removed.
 - Kathryn doesn't think that's the same lot but will double check on that.
- Don: "It wasn't clear to me what spaces are being set aside for the Timbers of the 859. The second thing, I heard from the subcommittee last week that this was only for the Timbers and it wasn't open to the general public but that didn't necessarily say this, so it wasn't quite

clear. When they included the Kearney street physician's lot it became even more murky so is this for the general neighborhood on these specific hours or is this only for Timbers period?"

- Piseth clarifies that the parking would only be for the Timbers.
- Don: "So are you taking away the physicians' lot during Timbers' games?"
 - Piseth answers that the parking hours are very specific. The lots are only open Monday thru Thursday between 5pm – 6am and Friday thru Sunday between 5pm and 6am for Timbers games.
- SAC members may be more likely to support the Timbers using Legacy lots if they were open to the rest of the neighborhood and other visitors throughout the year. What is preventing the lots from being open year round?
 - Piseth answers that Legacy is merely responding to the Timbers' request to open parking during game days.
- There was a question if the lots in the application were up to City Code.
 - Kathryn believes so but will check on that.
- Ron points out that as the application is written, it talks about piloting parking passes for season ticket holders after the test period. He envisioned parking passes for season ticket holders as the test period.

Rick mentions that there are a lot of details that need to be worked out. He asks if committee members are supportive of using a certain number of spaces for Timbers games during this season as a trial, with certain conditions.

SAC Comments on voting on the application include:

- Don: "To pursue it, study it, to move forward, to see if there's some way that we can or can't, I think we should pursue it."
- Others needs more information, further study to vote on this application.
- Some would like to see a pilot first, to see how it works before approving indefinitely.

A member of the public shares that there are serious concerns about the application itself and the way that any proposal to accommodate the Timbers patrons is difficult to overcome. If the committee is moving toward changing the NW District Parking Management Plan, that's a major project that would need to involve the neighborhood and a full discussion. If a baseball stadium is built, NW will be squeezed from both sides.

Rick asks if the members want to see a modified proposal from Legacy at the next meeting or if the SAC should deny the request because there seems to be a conflict with the policy.

- Karen says the SAC needs more time to think about whether the event district should be expanded. The policy plan is 15 years old and might need to be revisited, but as it stands now, it is the current policy and should be respected.

- Rick says the policy plan includes a lot of new off-street parking that the NWDA is now opposing. He argues that no one is being consistent with the NW District policy, there needs to be consistency from all sides.
- Jeanne believes the transportation committee is being consistent because there's a lot of shared parking applications they haven't objected to. She believes that it's wrong to operate with this deadline in a way that doesn't make the members feel good about the outcome because there are so many unknowns.

Rick says that this topic will be discussed further.

Meeting adjourned.