

Downtown Advisory Board  
**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**



**SUBMITTER:** Jamie Carpenter, Downtown Manager      **MEETING DATE:** February 8, 2022

**TITLE OF ITEM:** Parking Meter & Permit Fee Discussion

**SUMMARY:**

**Key discussion topics for Downtown Advisory Board Meeting:** [Review Parking background Storymap](#)

1. Employee (Service Industry?) parking rates
2. Curbside Management (30 minutes free?)
3. Monthly permit fees
4. Are there any other key stakeholders who will be impacted that we have not considered?

**Economic Vitality Team Meeting Summary**

Economic Vitality Team met on February 1 and reviewed in detail the analysis presented by Walker Consultants. The following are key points and recommendations from that discussion:

1. **Employee (service industry) parking** - a \$45 per person /car parking rate isn't feasible for downtown restaurants to provide for all employees.
  - Currently, employees find parking wherever they can and game the system as best as they can to find a location to park that is safe, well lit, and not far from their work.
  - Employees not finding parking is a barrier for downtown employment right now and I have been told this by several restaurants. With the current issues with employment, there needs to be some viable and affordable solutions for this. For example, if employees can work at a restaurant on Four Seasons Blvd for similar pay and NOT pay for parking, the downtown restaurants will risk losing quality employees. I would consider this something that will not be resolved in the context of the market determining the parking permit rate.
  - **Possible solutions**
    - if there is a way to do a bulk/group purchase of permits that can be split between multiple employees. For example, some of our bigger restaurants have probably 30-40 employees including part time/full time. They will never have that many people on the floor at a given time, so they purchase 10 parking spaces and then have to work out a system of how those are used. Issues would be enforcement.
    - Designated downtown employee parking area - we didn't really identify any solutions here, except the Dogwood lot for employee parking. I said that was not an option (but maybe it should be?) Other solutions that are currently used are the avenues outside of King and Church but without enforcement anyone will park there. There also may be some agreements with private lots. *I also would be interested if we could provide some*

*type of business support grant from ARP funding to offset some of the restaurant industry employee parking costs.*

2. **Loading zones / curbside** - The committee would like to see 30 minutes free for all of downtown on-street parking rather than just in parallel spots. They also did not seem to be as concerned about proposing a higher rate for parking on Main Street and suggested to have parking more expensive on Main Street, less expensive in the deck and surface lots. They did not feel that the deck should be more expensive (but there was some confusion on if it is in fact more expensive - so I think that can be remedied with a simplified chart in the presentation)
3. **Permits** - the committee is in favor of getting rid of the 24/7 parking spots. Also in favor of simplifying parking permits and rates.