



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

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**From:** [LaDon Detro](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #- MEETING DATE STUDY SESSION  
**Date:** Monday, January 23, 2023 11:59:56 AM

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City Council Members,

I plan on attending your meeting regarding the Parklets in Los Altos but want my comments read by the Council Members prior to the meeting.

Thank you for allowing comments from the residents and visitors to Los Altos, as it has a big impact on both pedestrian traffic as well as vehicles trying to navigate our downtown streets.

1. I think the current parklets extend too far into the street, some way beyond what is painted as a parking space. I watched a fire truck try to turn right onto Main Street from First Street, right in front of the Post Restaurant. The truck had to wait until all traffic was clear in both directions on Main Street so that it could make a big enough turn to avoid hitting the Parklet in front of the Post. It took some time to maneuver the turn to avoid the barrels and had to use both lanes on Main Street to do it.
2. I also think that some Parklets have too much space. I am aware that they have to have permission to use the storefront parking in front of another business. It takes away from the charm of a small town and turns it into the priority of that one particular business to seat as many people as possible. It shouldn't be the town's responsibility to accommodate the seating for customers at the expense of the atmosphere of the town.
3. The Parklets should have a standard theme, all constructed from the same material and have a common design. They should all be consistent and only differentiate by the personality of each establishment. I agree that the barrels should go, they do not serve as a safe barrier.
4. The white plastic structure in the street on State Street/Fourth is totally unacceptable. It goes way beyond a Parklet and has become a new dining room for the restaurant it represents. It definitely takes away the charm of the neighborhood and obstructs cars from being able to see oncoming traffic when making a right hand turn from Fourth Street onto State Street going towards 3rd Street. I don't understand how this has been acceptable, as it doesn't follow your current guide lines.
5. Maintenance of the Parklets has been an issue for sure. If plants are being used to personalize the space, then they should be properly maintained. Dead plants must be removed out of respect for pedestrians and other business owners.
6. If the traffic has been greatly impacted by the Parklets, one way streets could be a consideration. It would definitely make the streets safer for drivers and safer for customers sitting in the Parklets. Don't wait for a terrible accidents to happen before making a change.
7. There should be NO tables or heaters located on the sidewalks. The sidewalk in front of a restaurant on Main had tables with clients seated at them directly on the sidewalk. I had to navigate my way around the tables and the food servers. There is no way a person with a wheel chair could have passed that store front easily.
8. Politics and special treatment have no place when it comes to the safety of our town, the Parklets should work for everyone, not just for specific establishments. They should all have

the same ADA considerations and be executed the same way. Parking should be a big concern, it should take priority over the the extended sizes of the Parklets. The Parklet should only be directly in front of each establishment requesting it. Dropping someone off in front of a restaurant or store has become the problem of the person, not the establishment. It is somewhat of a problem when it comes to trying to protect the elderly who are trying to get to a business that is buried by an extended Parklet forcing them to park/walk further away.

Thank you again for reaching out to the public,  
LaDon Detro