

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING

Pilot Parking Management System

LISTENING & FEEDBACK SESSION

Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Hale Senior Activity Center, 330 Douglas Avenue

DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MINUTES

LISTENING & FEEDBACK SESSION

JANUARY 4, 2017

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

City Commission: Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Vice-Mayor Deborah Kynes, Commissioners Heather Gracy, John Tornga and Maureen "Moe" Freaney.

Also Present: Interim City Manager Doug Hutchens, City Clerk Denise M. Kirkpatrick, Finance Director Joe Ciarro, Planning and Development Director Gregory Rice, CRA Director Bob Ironsmith, Economic Development Specialist Danny Craig, Communications Director Courtney King, Transportation and Traffic Engineer Joan Rice and approximately 250 people were in attendance.

Opening and Introduction

Interim City Manager Hutchens advised:

Maybe the best thing I can do is say what this meeting is not going to be. It is not going to be a question-and-answer session, so if you came this evening with the expectation to ask questions and get answers this is not the forum for that. That will be on January 26. The Commission specifically asked that this evening be a listening session. We have staff here this evening on the front row and the Commissioners are here; I'll introduce some people briefly. I wanted to give that notice upfront so that your expectations are not hurt.

The purpose for tonight's meeting is to get input from the public, it is also to get input from the merchants, some of the stakeholders in town. We are reaching out for suggestions, observations and solutions so your input this evening will be very important to us.

Elected officials here this evening are Mayor Bujalski, Vice-Mayor Kynes, Commissioners Gracy, Tornga and Freaney, County Commissioner and Former Mayor Dave Eggers.

We have some representation from a few other boards and committees, those are folks who certainly have an interest in parking downtown whether it is the adequacy of it, the cost of it or the turnover that is related to it. We have representation from the Marina Advisory Committee and the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee, those are both Commission created and sanctioned organizations. In addition we have representation from the business community, the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee, Downtown Dunedin Merchants Association and the Greater Dunedin Chamber of Commerce. I think it is really important to reflect on that because not only do they have some things they want to say, but they are also interested in what you have to

say; to them you are more than just a resident, you're a customer and what customers have to say matters to them so it is important they are here to hear your voice.

Most of the follow-up to tonight will be discussed on January 26, so feel free to share your thoughts at that time as well. So we are here this evening to listen.

Staff team, we have some representation on the front row: director of planning development and housing, economic development, planning development, finance, public works and our SP+ group who provides the parking management for us which includes enforcement.

So real quick let me talk about some really brief background on how we got to paid parking because it did not just happen in a vacuum and it did not happen overnight and it wasn't just a knee-jerk reaction.

So why do we have paid parking?

City planners knew back in the early 2000's that the day would come when the parking supply downtown would likely be inadequate. They identified at risk lots that would be lost and over time that development would be adding to the demand and that expired leases would also hamper the availability of parking.

In 2009 a Commission approved consultant report was done that was referred to as a base study. All these studies are online at the City's website or go to dunedin.gov.org or parkdunedin.com.

In the 2009 study they identified the need for a future parking garage and a 10 year window of anywhere from 400 to 500 parking spaces. They suggested in 2009 enforced time limits and charging for parking lots. They discussed exploring options for transportation beyond automobiles another way to address parking deficiency. That 2009 report was really the genesis for three things that we really have not talked about in public since 2009.

One was the parking bank, there has been in a lot of discussion recently about the parking bank and that genesis was from the 2009 study, and in that study it was called fee in lieu of parking.

Another genesis of that 2009 study was the golf cart program which many of us like and enjoy as an alternative to vehicular traffic.

The third genesis from the 2009 study was the City's bicycle and pedestrian master plan which was adopted in 2011.

Those things have been taken to task and are underway.

In 2012 the City updated its Downtown Master Plan making it a 2033 Master Plan, and that identified the need for potentially up to two parking garages. The CRA was extended to 2033 in part as a funding mechanism for future parking needs. That CIP (Capital Improvement Program) identified approximately \$5 Million for two garages using TIF dollars (Tax Increment Financing) in the CRA as well as Penny for Pinellas dollars. That was approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2014 and 2015 additional reports were prepared, they were done by Walker & Associates, in those reports the 2009 data was generally validated. They recommended a paid parking program somewhat similar to what we have today to provide a revenue source to help address the parking crisis in the future.

In 2016 the City partnered with the construction of a private parking garage using BP settlement funds and the implementation of what we have today of the Downtown Paid Parking Plan.

What we have today is the fact that we are in the midst of a one-year pilot program. It is a pilot program that is a hybrid in that it is free and complimentary in some locations; it's free and enforced in some locations and is paid in some locations. It is a hybrid of resident discounts and neighborhood resident parking passes. It is a hybrid of downtown employee discounted parking passes. It's a hybrid of varying fees and varying time limits. All this was done in the attempt to be all things to all people and the greatest good for the greatest number which has made this project and this program unique.

If we go back to 2009 and agree that there is a future parking shortage looming on the horizon and we agree that it is the government's job to fix it, then how do we address that problem financially? Well here are some quick thoughts:

The consultants suggested a paid parking program in one form or another, a user fee. It is not an end-all be-all, it is just one option.

Another option is for the CRA to use the TIF fees, the Tax Increment Financing.

Another option is ad valorem taxes whether it is a special levy or not. I recall when I came here in the late 1980s there was a special levy that had been passed sometime before that was a half mill for X number of years and that provided a quarter of a mill in property taxes for drainage and a quarter of a mill in property taxes for transportation for road improvements and that was done to allow for financing of those improvements. That was before we had the Stormwater Utility Fee and I think even before we had the Penny for Pinellas as funding options.

In addition to ad valorem taxes we can look at the Penny for Pinellas.

A parking garage has been added to the next parking list.

If you have been following some of the discussions, on February 20 across the street at the Library there is going to be another listening session like this evening on Penny Prioritization; in November 2017 there will be a referendum countywide to discuss the Penny-for-Pinellas for renewal from 2020 to 2030. Pending the outcome of this pilot program and whether this makes the most sense for this community to address this problem and we feel led to address this problem as a municipal government, then the Penny is certainly an option. What we want to hear from you on February 20 to see if that option, what that comes in the form of opportunity costs, because if you spend that money on a garage there may be fewer dollars to do other things that are important to you, so we need to understand that. That is on February 20th.

Then on March 14 at City Hall there is a Commission Workshop on it, then in April likely we will be submitting Dunedin's list to the County as the County puts together a countywide program of outreach and promotion.

Another option to address the parking deficiency that could be looming ahead is for a downtown SAD or Special Assessment District to fund the parking. We have received e-mails at City Hall saying that maybe the merchants don't have enough skin in the game, that's one way of doing that.

Other sources or even a combination of all the sources I've just mentioned may be an appropriate approach to take or we can take a totally different approach. That is to look at keeping the problem from even occurring, so how do we do that. Do we dis-incentivize development, do we attempt to restrict property rights through zoning changes do we re-envision our community. All those things have the potential to delay what may be the inevitable.

In summary, the devil is in the details, is it not, and ultimately the success of the best intentions is contingent upon effective implementation. As far as implementation goes, staff owns that, that is our responsibility. The Commission sets policy and direction, it is our job to do the follow-up.

In keeping with this community's Scottish heritage, Robert Burns wrote in his classic line, "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." So tonight I ask have our best laid plans gone awry, we want to hear from you.

The ground rules this evening are simple:

We have a microphone up here and the conversation is going to be recorded, only what the microphone picks up will be recorded. The recordings are going to be sent to a company that will transcribe those for us. So likely, speaking from the audience will not be picked up which means it will not make it in the public record and that would be disappointing.

To assist the City Clerk we have asked those who care to speak to fill out a speaker card and the plan is for us to call or she will call up three at a time who can come up here where I'm standing and share your thoughts and your concerns and your solutions or recommendations you may have.

I do ask that everyone be polite and listen to each other because we certainly value your input.

This meeting will be successful only to the extent to which you wish to make it so.

Last, the meeting will end promptly at eight.

Citizen Comments

Bill Renc of 350 Main Street advised:

My wife and I own the Painted Fish Gallery in downtown. We started this gallery 21 1/2 years ago in 1995 and we have been here consistently every day for 21 1/2 years. There have been several bumps in the economy which we've weathered, 9/11 was one, 2008 recession was one and actually the 2000 election was one.

In October and November of this year our sales are down 40% from last year, this is something that is unsustainable for us. We have a long history of customers coming into the gallery returning from northern states and Canada and Europe and they are not shopping. They are coming because they enjoy coming to the gallery and they converse with us and we converse back. The response I've been getting consistently from people ever since the parking, paid parking started is they are disappointed and they feel betrayed. I think in the long run this paid parking is going to have a ripple effect which will turn downtown into a ghost town and the real estate market is going to plunge. People are buying homes and condos near downtown to have access to downtown, now they don't want to come downtown. I think that is going to sum it up for me, thank you very much.

Dorothy Connor of 2945 Laurel Court advised:

I am a boater, we moved to Dunedin because of the beautiful Marina, we have had a boat in the Marina for 16 years. I have several concerns about this. One, boating is not a two-hour operation, you don't go on your boat by yourself, you have guests that go on the boat with you. What happens, where do they park if there are no free parking spaces that don't have a time limit? That is something you need to think about because it's one of the things that is the attraction to Dunedin, you go to the Marina any day of the week and we have people down there taking pictures, sitting on benches and just enjoying it.

My second concern is that I am a Windlass; Windlasses is a women's sailing organization that is a member of a statewide organization that includes hundreds of women, most of whom are older than 60. Not to pull the senior card but we are seniors and we are getting limitations on what we can do and I ask where Windlasses is supposed to park because they have lifejackets, they have water, they have gear that they have to carry. Well I was told they can park on the peninsula. Anybody who has been to the peninsula on Thursday morning knows that there are about 20 Sunfish trailers that are parking down there as they unload their boats. I don't think Windlasses fit this parking scheme. You attract people from all over the county, we have members from Tarpon Springs to Clearwater that come down to sail and enjoy companionship. We sail then we go to lunch. Since we've had paid parking, they are paying to park but they are eating outside of town. This is just the reality of things. You're talking about an age group that's on limited income and you say ah, you're a boater well this means that you have a lot of money, well that's not necessarily true. A lot of us are retired schoolteachers, retired workers, housewives who have finally got the time where they can go out and do something.

Dunedin has made a reputation for itself for having activities that encourage people to get together and enjoy the environment and I feel like the system needs to be looked at with both seniors and problems that are unique to boaters and see what can be done to make arrangements for this. And just a suggestion, St. Petersburg has paid parking, if you get a parking ticket, if you spend \$25 at a local merchant they forgive the parking ticket.

Fred Willmot of 1217 Scotsdale Street advised:

I live on Scotsdale Street and I love Dunedin. I ride my bike through Dunedin, I talked to probably 50% of the owners of retail businesses and these are really the people we have to be concerned about. If a retail operation leaves town, as Bill has said, it's going to be a ghost town. And if you stop and talk to each one of the owners you'll find that each one of them is suffering. Each one of them, their sales are down, people have laid people off and that's never happened before and there's no reason for it.

Dunedin was a model city and it can be a model city. We have neighbors, we have Palm Harbor, we have Safety Harbor, we have Clearwater, we have a lot of choices of places to go and with all of the development that's happened here and I believe too much retail development, they are going to put retail on Patricia and they're going to put retail here, well the stores are all going to be vacant because there will be nobody in Dunedin that will want to be here. A lot of people are going to put their homes up for sale because the model that was here for the reason for them to live here is going to be gone and it's going to hurt us all.

I don't see any reason that we need paid parking, if they want to limit parking, put free parking three hours it doesn't have to be paid. Because if we look at the meters down there, handicapped people don't know how to park downtown, they don't have to pay, if you don't know it, you don't have to pay at the parking meters if you have a handicapped sticker, but there's no signs to tell you that. You also have to enter your license plate number, that's kind of draconian, why do we need your license plate number, so you don't move to another space, that's ridiculous. They can change these things and we don't have to have paid parking here, it's always worked and we haven't had our Canadian neighbors come in yet and when our Canadian neighbors come in we know that they can't afford to park in downtown and they have been a great support for downtown. And when spring training comes and (inaudible), well it's going to be a ghost town for sure. Thank you.

City Clerk Kirkpatrick commented before I call up the next three, I just want to say if you can keep it brief and short, because I've got quite a few cards and come 8:00 o'clock, we may not hear from you.

Regina Invandino of 733 Broadway Street advised:

I own Cappuccino's Fine Wine and Espresso Bar on Broadway. I've been in business for 13 years. This has got to be the worst last three months I have had since I opened in 2003, 50% of my income is down.

My customers are telling me that, my customers drive in to my store; they come in for a cup of coffee, they come in to pick up a bottle of wine, they come in to take out lunch, put in special orders and they drive in. They are elderly and they can't walk far, they can't walk from the free parking lot to my store, they come in to have a cup of coffee for \$2.50 and they have to pay \$1.50 to park.

Some of the comments I'm getting from my customers - I can't understand the machine, it doesn't take my license plate, I only have five numbers they want six, I can't see the machine at night, I had to pay twice because it said it didn't take it the first time so I paid double, we're going to Safety Harbor from now on because we don't have to pay to park down there.

I could go on and on about the comments I hear from my customers, customers that used to come in three or four times a week, I might see them once a week and sometimes I see them once every two weeks because they are on a budget; they are not going to come down and pay \$1.50 an hour to park so that they can run into my business and have a cup of coffee, sit down and have a conversation and leave because they don't know that you can pay \$.25 or \$.50 they think they have to pay the \$1.50. They feel like they are getting ripped off, these are the comments I'm getting from my customers that they feel like the town is ripping them off because there is no reason to pay to come to the stores on Broadway and Main Street.

Put in a parking garage and people will pay to park in a parking garage where it is out of the rain, it's out of the sun and they know they are going to get a spot, that when you put paid parking in front of businesses where their customers are there for less than 15 minutes sometimes, those customers are not going to pay to come and do that 15 minutes.

I don't know what else to say except for we're losing money and after 13 years I have actually thought about closing my doors and my customers are sad that I'm closing my doors. Thank you.

Bob Sutton of 1195 Ford Lane advised:

I moved to Dunedin in 1990. A lot of development at that time, and a lot of streets were redone downtown; things were hopping, things were really moving. Watched that progress get better and better and more and more people fell in love with Dunedin. We moved away for a short time and came back and were looking for a new place to live and we said you know we love Dunedin let's go back there, so we did. We are very happy with our decision, but we are not happy about what has happened to downtown with the parking.

My summation of the process was that it recently kind of got railroaded down our throats quickly and sort of hastily without very well planning. All the little meetings that happened from 2009 and all those other things that took place did not really put in place a mechanism or a machine that had it planned very well.

One of the things that I worried about was what is going to happen to this area or that area with development. There is only five or six lots first of all in the downtown core to be developed to start with, most of them are filled with other buildings already.

Beyond that they didn't plan what places you can park, they don't tell you what meters apply to what parking spaces so poor people who walk from the free lot walk right by a meter that looks like you need to pay because, gosh it's right up against the free parking lot and you can walk right by it and you can see all the footprints around it from people who have tried to pay for free parking. I think that's deceitful and I think we should do something about having better planning, better signage, promoting the free parking first and the paid parking last. Thank you.

Gregory Brady of 580 Skinner Boulevard #4 advised:

I've lived in Dunedin since 1974 and I started working in downtown in 1984. We had parking meters in downtown in 1984. I worked at the place known as "Blur" today, it was Dalape's back then and I was 19 years old and we could put pennies in the meter, dimes, nickels, but there were no cars, there was simply no traffic in downtown.

The City decided they would do a CRA district and they would redevelop and we were very upset by the fact that they took our own artery of traffic, Main Street and put it over on Skinner Boulevard, took it right out from under our noses. We thought this is the end of things, we've invested our money and our businesses, and our buildings and now they've done this to us. So we formed a Merchants Association and I'm going to speak more on that, because I have kind of a different kind of business.

We all know that women are going to do whatever they have to do to get their hair done. They will pay \$1.50, they will walk two blocks, I will pick them up in my golf cart. And on top of that I also took a very proactive stance with my staff and we educated our customer as best we could and we were still met with a lot of confusion over the machines.

The map kind of similarly looks like a weather map, there's dots and dashes in red and green all of these things on this map and it does not quite clearly let you know what the overall is. It doesn't say this is paid and this is free and then it doesn't say on Main Street where everyone is driving complimentary parking this way, parking lots this way. It's just a bunch of P's with arrows that are going.

As President of the Merchants Association I founded it with a small group of property and business owners, a lot of which are here tonight and our goal was to not only put on the fantastic events that you all love so much like Mardi Gras and Wines the Blues, but also to deal with issues like this. So, I myself have sat on four different task forces for parking, 2 through the CRA, 1 through the Downtown Parking Technical Advisory Committee, however the moniker works. I reached out to the members, we had 150 business members and I said send me your comments, I will forward them to staff and then we will craft what our recommendations are.

We know that we have all of these lots that the City is leasing and the lots are going to go away because they are owned by private individuals. When that parking goes away, the parking problem is going to be that we don't have any parking and that's going to be a problem, so we've got to create a funding stream to purchase all the garages that everybody thinks are such a great idea.

Was the roll out a little bit larger than what we expected, yes. We thought it was going to be Main Street only and it turned out that it was all of the side streets and all the parking lots and everything. And I think that was kind of a concern.

So compiling these e-mails, these seem to be the repetitive top six:

The time limit is a concern to all retail merchants, they feel you do not have time to go in and eat and still be able to shop afterwards. Some businesses are saying that their business is down and we've asked them to provide percentage statistics year-to-year.

Machines are way too complicated and we were looking to get feedback from the company on how they could be simplified.

The parking zone codes, if we keep zones they should be printed on every sign. You shouldn't have to go to the machine itself to find out what the zone is. If you made the price uniform across everything there would be no need for zones, so that would simplify it.

The free lots that are available are very inadequate, they are dirt, the parking things that stop cars are all over the place, at night there is no lighting and there is no directional signs to get you to those lots.

Special events, we need signage for special events, we need increased trolley pick up areas for special events.

Have a plan in place for when OceanOptics goes away, because that is a big space used for special events.

Allow for some valet possibilities for some of our restaurants downtown during heavy and seasonal times.

Another possible solution, what their recommendation is, do away with the time limit, maybe the rate goes up after 3 hours, improve surface signage and lighting to the Station Square lot at Scotland and Douglas and on the Bushnell lot across from the Marina and make all costs consistent in all paid areas to cut down on confusion.

We know that we need money in place and it's not that we support it the way it is, but we support it with some improvements. Thank you.

Ozzy Davis of 616 Skinner Boulevard advised:

I'd like to talk about one thing, I've heard it brought up a couple of times tonight, golf carts. There is not clear signage for golf cart regulations, golf cart parking. I asked a parking enforcer what the laws were on that, what the new regulations are; I was told that as many golf carts can fit in one spot, they are all covered under one parking ticket. I don't know if that is the regulation or not, but it didn't sound right to me. It has gotten to the point where I don't even like to take the golf cart out and this is a carting community. We have a lot of elderly people that don't want to get in a car and deal with all that traffic, so maybe we could think about that. Thank you.

Lynn Wargo, President of the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce at 301 Main Street, advised:

We have had more comments on this parking situation than just about anything else that we have had and experienced here in the community.

I also want to tell you that our building is a historic location and we do not have a single parking space for it, so none of our volunteers, none of our staff or tenants have any parking assigned to it. It has always been a challenge, but it is more of a challenge now.

With that said, it's the complexity of the situation and the need for that revenue stream to insure that there is the continued parking availability in this community.

There were several of us that left a meeting earlier this afternoon for the project at the plaza at Main and Douglas and that is going to be going off line as you have seen the Artisan Apartments going off line, all of that parking just as we head into the heavy visitor season.

I've made some notes on some suggestions and comments we have had over and over again.

The time limit that is a huge concern particularly if you want to be able to shop and you want to be able to eat. It has been a grave concern raised at the Marina of the people not being able to use some of the boating that goes out. If you have a 4-hour cruise, you can't stay for 4 hours, for those going out as pleasure boaters they can't do that either so that has really been a concern.

There is also the opportunity or lack thereof to run into some place quickly. If there was an opportunity for a 15-minute that you could run in, grab something and run out that would allow for that quick interaction with a business or something like the Chamber without having to pay. Many people feel there is only the ability to pay the \$1.50 and don't know they can use change in their pocket to stay for a shorter time.

The difficulty in navigating the machines, we have definitely gotten that. Older folks find it challenging. Also, when you are out there and it is very sunny, it's very hard to read them. I don't know if there is any kind of shading that could be placed over them, but reading them, I have a challenge reading them and I know how to use them.

The simplicity of the program having different times for different lots and different costs for different lots and some lots are free in the early part of the day, but paid after 6:00. We have a challenge trying to educate our guests and I know that they are challenged with trying to figure it out.

The better signage we got, we've heard stories of people walking right by the kiosk, they have been coming here for years, they don't realize that this had changed, so they walk right by it without realizing they have to pay.

The free lots, I agree with Gregory, they are becoming more and more hazardous, the soft sand, the lighting; there are not designated parking spots; people infringe upon what is actually the travel lanes. Some of these people I am not sure how they are getting out at the end of an evening; there is not enough room to maneuver your car.

Also, some of our private businesses are starting to find that the public is infringing on their private spaces, OceanOptics being one. I got that this afternoon, their employees are starting to monitor the lots, especially on the days of the market when they have a lot of employees on site and guests visiting, it is starting to infringe on their employees' parking.

The clarity for the handicapped parking and the golf carts, that is another thing we have been hearing a lot of.

Residential, I've gotten a couple of those about permits, questions of when the homeowners are having parties or gatherings, particularly over the Christmas season; they were sharing different permits to allow for additional guests, so how can they allow more people to come to their homes.

For those of us that are in the downtown, for us I would like to be able to have an ability to share a parking pass. I have a volunteer that comes in one day a week; I don't want to

have to purchase a parking pass for them for one day. Could we have the ability to share among employees and volunteers, that same might be for our tenants if there is a pass available for more than one particular car.

I know that some of the spaces, Honey Lane, Monroe, along the Trail they seem to be open a lot and it would be great if there was some modification that we might be able to use them at a lower rate or free. The ends of the town there is free parking at one end and not at the other and it is just very confusing for people and we want them to use the downtown and visit our businesses and we know that any change like this is a challenge, so we just want it to be as easy and as simple for everyone involved to be able to use it and navigate it. Thank you.

Jackie Nigro of 9 Haig Place #502 advised:

We need parking, there's no doubt about it, we do need parking we just have to find out how. I don't like myself trying to figure out those machines. First of all I have to find a place where I want to go to park, find the space, use the machines and then I can't determine am I 3 hours here, 1 hour there, it is very confusing. That does need to be cleaned up.

I will say give me a multi-story parking lot, a garage; I will go and I'll stay as long as I want and I will pay for it when I come out. That to me is the simplest thing that you can do when you go anywhere.

I don't like the different places with the different times. If we could have parking garages, you know the city of Dunedin is not very large, its boundaries are pretty much east, north and south; if we could have something – and I know people are going to say not in my back yard, but if we could have something that was a parking area there in each of those locations and a trolley bus just did a circle all the way around, they do it in England all the time, they bus them in. That would work, it would just be a perpetual wheel of parking your car, paying when you go out, how much time you've used and just move the trolley on around the town to the different locations.

Where is the money coming from, I have no idea that's not in my pay grade, the City has to do that.

Another thing is, I am on several committees for the City, I don't feel I should have to pay for my volunteer time to go and do work for the City of Dunedin. I don't know how you fix that one either, whether you give us all a sticky. I'm fortunate some of my meetings are in a City building and so I do go there and quite frankly whether I should or not, you can maybe give me a ticket, I do park in the parking lot across from the Sheriff's Office when I'm there as I have just been with several people this evening because I'm there on City business.

I still say, let me drive in, stay as long as I want and pay when I leave. Thank you.

Theo Tamborlone (*female*) of 1218 St. Andrews Drive advised:

I'm a permanent resident now. I chose Dunedin to move to from Franfort, NJ, where I had been a resident for 15 years. I chose Dunedin with my husband after we did an extensive search of towns on the west coast and we are very glad we are here.

We arrived at the end of August and we heard paid parking was coming, but it did not bother us because we had a paid parking system in Franfort that was very user friendly, merchant friendly, made money and everyone was happy with it. The components of that parking plan were very simple. The first 10 minutes are free, then you pay \$.25 a half hour for the amount of time that you want. There are some areas that are 1 1/2 hours and some areas that are 3

hours clearly marked and there are spaces in each of the areas which have numbers, the numbers are clearly visible so elderly people or people with bad eyesight can read them either on the street where the space is or on the curb nearby. The spaces are also printed on the receipt you get. I brought copies of a receipt I happened to have in my purse still from being in Franfort, on there is full information about how to contact the people in Franfort, go to the web site and look at the way the program is working there, they have for employees a very discounted monthly pass and yes the employees at my old hairdresser could share that monthly pass if they needed to do so and then they did have of course lots of free areas throughout the whole town and when you went to put your money in, you could put in coins, dollars, American Express or Visa and you could get clear printed receipts like the one I am going to give to the Clerk that people could read and understand. The machines were very user friendly, you didn't have to use your license plate and you didn't have to have a map to try and figure out where to go to park either for an hour, hour and a half, 3 or to be free.

I am very happy being in Dunedin, I am very happy to be here tonight to listen to so many of you who have wonderful histories in this town and to tell you I think this is great that you are all out working on this problem together and count me in. Thank you.

Jim Roberts of 1218 St. Andrews Drive advised:

I'd like to thank my wife for hitting all the points we discussed at home before we came over here tonight. Our experience in New Jersey is positive as she said and we come here and we find that we don't seem to have anywhere near a consensus on first of all why this is necessary and secondly how to implement it. And the test that we're going through is producing some very negative feelings and I find that unfortunate. I look out here and I see lots and lots of people who want to become involved in community issues and this is very impressive to us who also had been involved in community issues over the years.

So without going through all the things that I was going to tell you I'm going to say basically this. The system should be fair and consistent for all people including the merchants, including who are the users and that is you and me. Some of the things that Theo mentioned are obviously going to help that, you need to have a space of time within which people can make a quick stop, go into a store, pick something up and leave without having to feel obligated to pay significant amount of money.

We had a holiday party over in Clearwater and when they heard we were from Dunedin people actually came to us and said what are they trying to do, I can't go down and get an ice cream cone anymore without adding \$1.50 to the cost; that's the perception. Actually their perception was \$2.00; we had to set that straight.

It's not fair to people who want to do quick business, pick up something you've ordered at a restaurant, pick up a package at one of the retail facilities downtown and move on, it's not fair and it's very difficult.

Also, the idea of marking spaces is much easier to deal with. I think that the initial drop of \$1.50 for an hour is beyond what we've seen in some other communities and even in some very affluent communities up north. I know there is a bumper sticker that says we don't care how you did it up north.

I've heard there is a reason that the company has told us about why you can't use dollar bills in the machines because for some reason the moisture in the air here does something with the dollar bills. My suggestion is maybe you need a different machine. The convenience of pulling

a couple of coins out of your pocket or a dollar bill rather than having to stand there and put all this information into the machine and wait and hope the machine gets it right and the machine can use a parking space number, it doesn't have to use our registration on the car.

So I think there are things that have to be looked at, there are obviously reasons why the town is looking at these things and it seems to me a real good search of the information available and information that is out in other communities would be helpful. I thank you very much and we are very happy to be here.

George Schott of 2581 Indigo Drive advised:

I have been here since 1987, I bought a business on Main Street down by County Road 1 and operated that for many years. That was when County Road 1 and S.R. 580 was a two-lane road with ditches on both sides and they had just started doing construction. I remember when downtown was still S.R.580/Main Street and all the traffic went right through downtown and we loved it; then Skinner showed up and he had never heard of that before. Then watched the City grow and become like a retro city and I thought that was really cool and we started drawing people in because it was really a neat place.

Then came parking; I don't understand whether it is to help us or bring the City income, revenue. I had an interesting experience when it first started. We were going downtown and we've probably shopped and ate at every place on Main Street. We went down for dinner one night, four of us with another couple and I said well I'll do the parking meter thing, so I'm over there trying to figure this thing out because I hadn't seen it before and this lady comes up and says are you having trouble and I said yeah, I'm a pretty smart guy but I'm having trouble right. I got it figured out and she says well if you want to complain there's a commissioner sitting over there at the table at another restaurant. So, I went over and I said you know I was trying to use the meter and I had a really unique experience and she said what's that and I said that it's taken me so long to figure it out I just got a text message from my wife that says we're done eating.

Dennis McGreen of 1689 Hamilton Court advised:

I'm here to say that I'm totally, utterly and absolutely opposed to paid parking in any shape or form. I'm also opposed to something that is referred to two times tonight as turnover, one of the justifications for having paid parking is turnover. In other words when people come into Dunedin they want them to park, they want them to buy their products and then they want them to get out of the way so that the next group of people can come in. It's not working out that way but that's the turnover idea.

I'm going to divert a little bit, but I promise you this will make sense to you. 241 years ago we had, the Declaration of Independence was signed and the original document has the phrase in it, "we hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights and among these rights are life, liberty" (and in the first draft it said "property") and they said no that's not right, let's revise this so it's now "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"; so in Dunedin we have to think about the words "the pursuit of happiness," that's what it's about.

In Dunedin we used to have a town where you could walk around, you could go see a movie you could go to restaurants, you could sit on a bench, you could go look at the sunset, you could do whatever you felt like doing without any pressure about how much you had to pay for parking and when you have to go back and so forth. Even some people would actually go to

restaurants and in fact most of the time they did after a walk, after looking at the sunset, after looking at a family movie then they would undoubtedly spend money; it appears that now we are not doing that.

What I would like to propose is that we get rid of all of the paid parking, get rid of all the turnover and just get back to where we used to be which was just having a very happy pleasant town where you and I and everybody else here can engage in the pursuit of happiness and not worry about the property values for property owners or people who want to make a lot of money because they think of you not as a human being but as a customer. We are human beings first and then maybe we'll get to be customers after that. Thank you.

Harold Schomaker of 959 Virginia Street advised:

I am the Rear Commodore of the Dunedin Boat Club; I am the Vice-Chairman of the Marina Advisory Board and yes I have a boat in the Marina. So I am going to talk about the Marina.

The current parking plan does not work well with the activities of a marina. Many times boating activities extend 8, 10 to 12 hours, sometimes even overnight and into the next day or a full weekend. Many times activities will extend beyond the cellular service so you cannot renew your parking. The parking plan needs to address or allow for Marina patrons and their guests to park for extended period of times and yes overnight and only have to pay one time. Thank you.

Trina Clickner of 710 Loudon Avenue advised:

I'm a fiddler and I gather with my friends once a week by the Painted Fish Gallery and we put on a little show for people going on the Trail and it has been for several years highly well received. This year we've noticed a lot fewer people on the Trail and a number of people who come to play with me will park in the parking lot and they are like, oh my goodness we have to pay now and the answer is yes and clearly they don't like that. And the few times they did get a ticket it was only a warning. But the whole thing just doesn't feel right to me.

I'm so proud to live in Dunedin and the whole thing just feels weird. I'm glad I came tonight because I learned about the kind of problems we're trying to solve and I believe there may be other ways to earn money to buy this parking lot we will need in the future. But it just seems like nickel and diming and it seems a cluster (#####) around those, I tried to think of another word to say all day and they said, no that is the best word to use, so but people are so confused.

I also had friends I was going to dinner with and I was standing around the parking meter near me to get the ticket and my friends went quickly somewhere else and they sat at the table 15 minutes before I got there. So anyway, I'm confident we are going to do something cool. In all the time we spend with regard to this parking we could be spending doing something very cool for Dunedin instead of doing this. So, thank you.

Bill Arim of 200 Main Street #106 advised:

My wife Christen and I are owners of the Spice and Tea Exchange down at the new Victoria Place. First of all I want to compliment the folks who have come up here this evening. I think a lot of interesting, thought provoking ideas have been presented some of which I had not heard be it from our guests and our customers in our store or from talking to other merchants in the downtown.

I would like to take a different tact and I will make it short. I think there is a place for paid parking. I think the pendulum has swung way too far, I think it needs to come back to the

middle, minimally. The 3 hour is a challenge and we hear that on a consistent basis, the technicality of being able to use the parking machines or kiosks definitely are a challenge.

One of the things I would like to see, and I really do believe that the commissioners and the boards are going to bring that pendulum back towards the middle, is that we effectively communicate that to all of the citizens in Dunedin. I think that has been one of the challenges with the implementation and I think hopefully a lesson learned that we communicate better to the consumers, to the property owners.

One of the suggestions I have made in the past relative to residents of Dunedin and property owners of Dunedin, is maybe we provide some limited amount of free parking on a monthly basis to everybody that pays taxes, maybe we give them 3 to 6 hours a month of free parking so that they can come downtown, they can enjoy a dinner, they can enjoy shopping, whatever they care to do. Thank you.

Tammy Cappleman of 645 Wood Street advised:

I am currently developing a new business in the Downtown Core area. I have noticed two things.

Number one before we had paid parking, any event that we had in the city brought a lot of traffic to my street on Wood Street which is a very narrow street and there would be parking both sides and one time I had to help the UPS driver maneuver through so that there was definitely a need to do something about our parking, I understand that.

From a business perspective I see a parking lot across the street that is free Monday through Friday 10:00 – 6:00 and it's empty all the time, it's empty and the reason being is that they think that they have to pay to park there. So we definitely need a better job at showing the free spots consistently and it needs to be throughout the whole city.

At the boat parade I tried to be a good citizen, load up my van, take a bunch of people down to the boat parade and then I came back to my house to get my scooter. I found a spot in the free parking but I could not park there because I knew my scooter would be on the ground, it was just sand. I think we need to have a better job of promoting scooters, promoting golf cart parking, make it very clear and they don't take as much space. Thank you.

Steve Cass of SunTrust Bank located at 825 Broadway advised:

I am also fortunate enough to work and play in our great city and live on Scotland Street as well as working at 825 Broadway. We have a bit of a different predicament than some of the other merchants are having here this evening and that's having one of the largest private lots that is very close to the downtown and as a result our customers sometimes can't get into our bank. I've had several times and this has really been in the last two months and we certainly have had issues in the past around certain events like Mardi Gras which we gladly overlook that one, the spring training season is always a little difficult but we've never to this extent had situations where our employees can't park in our parking lot and our customers can't get into our parking lot to do business with us.

I know some of this unfortunately is employees of the merchants who have been driven to finding our parking lot as a place where they can go and park for free and they are clients of ours too, we are the bank in downtown Dunedin. Many of the merchants here tonight, their employees are clients of ours and we can't with any good conscience as good neighbors tow their cars, we haven't done it. I've been with the bank for 17 years, we have the obligatory

“violators will be towed” signs up, but if we ever had to tow somebody, I don’t know anybody who knows who the towing company is to get it done.

It has caused a real predicament for us and something we do not want to have to do, something that is going to negatively impact our customers, but something has to give and hope that something is done.

Jody Steinman of 600 Loudon Avenue advised:

I’m proud to say that I have not yet paid for parking in downtown Dunedin and I have no intention of doing so ever. Most of my life I’ve worked in retail and customer service. I have this magnet on my refrigerator and I look at it every day as a retail manager and as a customer service provider I know that it takes months to find a customer and only seconds to lose one.

I’ve heard from many of the downtown merchants how many years it took to build a downtown Dunedin to where it was a year ago. As a customer service provider the City of Dunedin is the customer service provider in this instance, the Downtown Parking Management Program the minute it went into effect that is the second when we lost a lot of our customers that had been coming downtown for years and years and years. They are angry, the City has alienated them and even if we stopped the parking management program tonight and said okay for going back to the way it was those people are not coming back any time soon. Thank you.

Irene Pierpont of 334 Broadway advised:

I’m lucky enough to live close enough that I walk downtown and I love Dunedin because it is a very walkable city and I encourage people who come to visit me park at my house and we’ll walk. I’ve been in many places where parking has inevitably had to happen where charging for it. The good news is Dunedin is a thriving community, the bad news is we don’t have enough parking to sustain it. So I’m not going to sit here and tell you we should never have paid parking, I don’t think that’s the case. But to limit it to three hours for the Marina, I’m also on the Marina Board and I don’t own a boat. These Marina customers, these people have been in this community for a long, long time and then we’re saying your friends can’t go out on your boat with you anymore, this is crazy. We’re telling shoppers who come down, I managed malls for a long time and you’re not saying get out three hours we’ve got someone else to come in, you’re saying stay and enjoy our community. The limits are very scary to me I think they’re going to hurt your business even more than actually having people pay for parking. I think people understand that parking is free, it’s not free someone is paying for it. I know we have a lot of problems with the confusion, but to tell people they have to go after three hours is limiting business for everybody and the Marina and I think across the board. Thank you.

Harry Steinman of 600 Loudon Avenue advised:

I’m here this evening speaking on my own behalf and not on behalf of Preserve the Vibe because the organization takes no stance on public parking; although we do take stance on the process by which things are being done.

I want to make three really quick small points and then one major point.

Number one is when the City Manager, Mr. Hutchens, referred to hybrid parking lots, I think that’s code for confusion.

Number two, when the City Manager began this evening by talking about some of the critical constituencies, merchants, stakeholders, the City, the staff et cetera; wait a minute where are residents in that list. If you look at the number of people in this room and subtract the number of people who are merchants and stakeholders, whatever the heck stakeholders are, and

subtract the people who are City employees you get most of us in this room and we are the people who are being inconvenienced along with the merchants and we are the people who need to stand up for our rights, power to the people.

The third small point I want to make is I live on Loudon Avenue just about where the border of having to have a resident permit to park on the street is. I don't care who parks on the street, just don't park in my driveway, that's fine. But, these are city streets paid for by all of the residents and I resent the dickens out of having to have a parking permit to park on my own street that should be available to anybody who happens to be driving there.

Just before this whole, and any of you here who are Jewish or speak Yiddish you will know what I mean, but just before this mish mosh started I ran into a former Commissioner and I asked this person why does everything have to go so fast, why can't you do it in stages. Who eats a steak in one bite? And the reason I was given was that the City wanted to be able to show 2 years of revenue from paid parking so the City could float a bond issue. Well, I don't recall the City coming to the residents, us, and saying we want to float a bond issue; let's do this, but rather making a commitment to something in the future that may not happen because who knows if we will get the income from this obviously failed experiment to be able to designate we have the income to float a bond issue.

Those are the main points I would want to make. The machines, I will disagree with my wife, she says she's proud she's never spent a dime on parking; I spent a dollar and I was willing to spend the \$1.50, but I couldn't figure out how to add 50 cents in your stupid machines and if these machines are the best that people can do, then let's go back to parking meters. Thank you.

Jim Kuhn of 18 Citrus Avenue advised:

We have lived here for 12 years and we love the town. I decided to speak tonight, I didn't sit and write notes or plan it, I was just going to go off the top of my head. There are three things that I saw that bothered me.

One was as visitors to downtown frequenting the restaurants and the businesses, we noticed that all of a sudden there were many people at the time of the year when we had the influx of the snowbirds, the Canadians and God knows who, that it gets awfully crowded and that didn't happen this year. Summer got longer it seemed so I started feeling very bad for the merchants. I spent my life in advertising in the publishing business so merchants have been a very important part of my life and my livelihood and that of my wife and my family. We went into restaurants and stores and there was nobody there, didn't have to wait at Café Alfresco and stand out in a long line and sit on the bench and wait for a half-hour which I didn't mind doing because it's a fun town just to watch people. We talked to the merchants a lot and we talked to the employees and we notice that there are a lot of sad faces, the employees were unhappy because there weren't many customers there weren't many tips for those people in the restaurant business. On top of that these people had a decreased income and they had to pay for parking, so the cost of doing business was greater and the income was lower.

And the third thing is I just don't want to see this happen to Dunedin. We've lived in a number of cities and one of those places, we were born and raised in Philadelphia and my first job in the media business was for the local newspaper in a community in northwest Philadelphia and the far suburbs is that within the city limits called Chestnut Hill. Much like this town it's a beautiful shopping district they call it the green country town and it deserves every accolade this town does. What they went through in 1960 and the late 1950's is what we are going

through now. One of those problems was parking and its effect on the merchants. They too created a Merchants Association, they created a community association and on top of that they created a parking association. Now the configurations of the buildings is somewhat different than it is here, but up there you've got residential streets backing onto a Germantown Avenue which is the business district and you had space in between, they created parking lots and they put in one-way in and one-way out with an attendant and you got a parking ticket and if you did not want to pay at the meter on the streets then you went into the parking lot, submitted that parking slip to the merchant, the restaurant, and they paid for a small portion of your parking. Now if you're in the retail business and you're not a restaurant then he maybe would pay for 15 minutes parking, he just put his stamp on there and it says \$.15 or 15 minutes. A restaurant would allow more time and you may spend 3 hours between eating in a restaurant and your shopping and most of your parking was paid for so it was little out-of-pocket and it wasn't a big hit to the merchant and it wasn't a big hit to the other people. So I offer that as a recommendation there online. We haven't lived there since the 70's, but I can assure you they are still in business, we've been there to visit and you can go online, as a reference point it's the Chestnut Hill Community Association, the Chestnut Hill Parking Association and the Chestnut Hill Development Group.

Diana Carsey of 518 Virginia Street advised:

I live in town and don't have to park and pay because I can walk most places, but I have experimented with a method because of my experience in other countries and small towns and villages where they don't have sidewalks or curbs there'll be a parking meter; there'll be a thing just like ours, you arrive into town and there's no place to park and there are meters everywhere, there are not parking garages either.

I grew up in big cities so I am accustomed to parking garages and I prefer them. I understand that they have to be paid for. I have had both experiences of the garages, of the street parking and going to small towns where having to pay to park is a daily common affair and people figure it out. People will help each other, the instructions are in multiple languages and I have found that it does not, in my experience, did not stop the traffic either in the walled city in the middle of France or a small village by a winery, you can still find places to park and you have to pay.

I wanted to mention that because we are all afraid of this change and I really think we will grow into it. I want to mention two things in my personal experience, I used the parking standard today near, across from Alfresco, the light was glaring and I'm looking at that screen going this is not going to work. I touched the enter button which is step one on the card, the screen came up, I could see it very well and did not need a hat, did not need a screen, it was just fine, even though when I started I thought I couldn't see it, but as soon as I hit start the light came on and the light is very bright.

I want to mention that the limits are not clear. It would be very cool if on our little card it said a quarter will give you 10 minutes; I didn't know that \$.50 would give me 20 minutes, maybe that's true, I don't know, but it also doesn't say get your phone out. I had my phone in my hand because I wanted to use it because I have the app, but I didn't remember, so I'll have to try that tomorrow. Anyway, I'm experimenting with it and I have seen it work in a lot of other places and it is fine.

Jack Stark of 1619 Brandywine Way advised:

I live on Brandywine Way about 2 miles from downtown, so I can't just walk down easily and enjoy it. Four years ago I bought a house in Dunedin and I picked this town because of all the things we've talked about, small town, nice downtown, waterfront, the whole thing. My wife and I would come downtown two or three times a week, maybe more and walk around, go to the Saturday morning market and all of a sudden this parking thing started. I found it really very difficult. The kiosk system is I think clumsy. The fact that the parking is not uniform, I went to the barber the other day and he said, number one you parked in the wrong place, if you had parked on Main Street in the morning it was free, but where you parked there's a meter and you have to pay and it was just totally confusing.

Not only is the kiosk system difficult to use, the non-uniformity is even worse and as a result I've just decided I don't come downtown anymore. I go to Clearwater, I go to Safety Harbor, I can go to any of the smaller towns and get much of what I get in Dunedin. I can go to a restaurant down on Main Street or somewhere else that has their own parking away from the downtown, so I just don't do business here unless I'm really stuck having to come downtown.

New Year's day I went over to Clearwater Beach, my wife and I walked the beach, we were on Mandalay Avenue which is really busy, we found a parking space, there was a meter at the end of the parking space. We could put as many quarters in the meter as we wanted to pay for the time and we walked the beach and we came back and drove away and it was very easy, so Clearwater seems to have solved their parking issues. I don't know why we can't make it simpler here.

Sherry Lee Cook of 419 Scotland Street advised:

It's great to see all of my neighbors out here. I call Dunedin my home, I love it and thank you all for coming. I thought I was going to be the only one coming down here complaining. I live in the war zone, 419 Scotland Street. I have survived people parking on my front lawn thinking it was an expansion of the roadway to beer cans everywhere. I've had people argue to hit down fights about where to park.

In case you've never been in that stretch of Scotland, it's a one-way, so other than seeing several cars every day coming down the wrong way, we are limited to only half the regular parking spaces that Scotland has up the street.

The problem with us there is that two thirds of us don't have garages, so what we do is park on our street, we're allowed to have two of these and that's all. And as you can see after using them for less than two days they do not hang right over the mirror area, so in probably two more times they are probably going to break.

I went down to the City to address some of the problems and I was led to believe there was only one person down there that could answer my questions that refused to answer my questions. In addition to that I had to threaten that I would go see Julie personally before they went and got a supervisor after being told that they had no supervisor. So if that is the way they are going to treat us residents that are in the war zone then imagine what it is going to be like when we are going to try to convince them there is another way out there.

One of the things that we're really wondering is that two thirds of us do not want to have their residence permit on our street and when I asked if we could have that removed because how they informed us was the day they put the signs in, I didn't get any information from phone

calls or written to even let me know; they dug in my garden out front to stick their signs in it and had no consideration at all for us.

I'm just asking that there is a better way for this because I have more than two visitors and I have a house and am lucky enough to have five bedrooms and I can tell you two passes don't get it in my house when my family comes over. So we are lucky enough to have a church down the street that has allowed us to park there, but when you are hauling suit cases for a block and a half, it's not really friendly to us at all and we were never asked. And when we were told about parking we were told that it was going to be only downtown, not in our neighborhood and we don't care who parks on our street, its first come first serve, you don't find a parking spot you go to the next street over, it's always been that way and we have survived with baseball and our green market and special events on the same day without having any problems in our neighborhood.

I don't like asking permission if I can have more than two people come to visit me and now they are requiring that I go register in the event I have more than two people so that I can get other permits only printed for that day and if my neighbor happens to have a Christmas party at the same time I have a Christmas party then only one of us can have the passes, so figure that out.

All of this has been driven under the veil that it is the merchants pushing it so that they can have a turnaround and tonight I learned that's not the truth at all. I have sat in these meetings and the whole thing is, what are we going to do about this parking, it's been going on for six years. Why couldn't we come up with a better solution after six years of talking about this?

Larri Gerson of 1310 Overcash Drive advised:

I wasn't going to talk. Thank you Julie and Doug for setting this up on the commissioners. I've been with this parking situation from the very beginning. I worked with Mike Jones, he was running for Commissioner and it just threw us in the mix and we went all over this town from one end of this city to the other. We listened to everybody, we listened to the community, we listened to the merchants.

We heard the people come up and speak in favor of parking and they said it was for turnovers, they said it was for a garage so that we can get bonding issue in two years; I found that not to be the truth. And that is something I want to share with you, because everything that I am hearing tonight, we're not going in that direction because turnover, people want longer and that is better for business, right. Number two, bonding, if we don't have people coming to town and visit our merchants, to visit our town or want to live in our town, then we're not going to have the revenue to build our garage, right.

One of the things I found when I started on this journey was listening, communicating, communication and that was the thing that was missing the most out of all of this. Tonight is the first time that we've had people speak up and talk about the problems they've been facing, okay. But, there's been a few of us that have been getting up and going to the commission meetings and talking out there about the same problems that you're talking about tonight, the same problems. The problem is that the message didn't get out, they didn't want the message to get out because they wanted this in place, they wanted it in place in October, they wanted to move it forward, they didn't ask you and I.

I asked for a referendum, that was my first step because when you have a referendum you have to communicate and articulate why you want this big project and didn't get heard.

The next thing I asked for and I am a big advocate is for seniors and disabled Veterans and I said your statutes, regulations, ordinances aren't even coming close to the federal, Florida Statutes and that took numerous amount of times to get up before the commission.

So, today I am asking all of you to stay on top of this. Just because we had a meeting here and we're all listening, they need you down at the commission meetings every two weeks, twice a month and speak up. And the thing I say this, look what happened with the Hammock, look how many people showed up, look how many people spoke up, had signs and they got up one after another and they spoke about it. All I'm asking is besides myself and a few of us, we've gone up every single commission meeting and we just got a stare look in our faces, because oh it's them again speaking about it, well if you don't get up and speak about how you feel about something that you don't like in the city and ask for a change, not demand, ask and bring people with you, then we're not going to have this change; this is going to fly right over if you don't stay with it and stay on top of it. So I'm asking you to join me, join my other friends that have gone to the commission meetings and speak up and tell them how you feel and that you're not going away.

Joe Kokolakis of 134 Buena Vista Drive North advised:

I have lived here in Dunedin for now 31 years and I think this is wonderful. I think coming to an event like tonight, I am grateful to be a part of this town. It's remarkable how many people came out to speak on this topic. I think I can offer a unique perspective on how it all evolved, but ultimately it's a problem and a problem in this community that is clearly impacting so many of you and you're all here. Larri is right that the fact that we have this forum and you all came here on your Wednesday night is tremendous. I think if the staff and the mayor and commissioners leave with anything tonight, it's that we need to reach a consensus and that these problems are real and that it's not just a couple people frankly that came to the commission meetings. Not that I think a commission meeting, for whatever it's worth should be a marathon four hour meeting because the commission meetings again in my opinion are designed for us to insure that our representatives are acting in our interest and if they're not then through our vote we can address it.

But, this is about parking and I think as a citizen of Dunedin who has worked a lot with staff, who has worked a lot with several different commissions, it bothers me that there is any implication that what was done here in this process is in any way not in what they consider to be the best interest of Dunedin and their jobs. Parking, as Doug kind of explained earlier, the City Manager, is a problem and I guess some people here feel there was no parking problem; therefore, there was no need for a solution. But, I think the majority and more importantly the consultants that the City and our tax dollars paid for established that there is a problem, not now, but in the future.

Now for the gentleman who recited the Declaration of Independence, it's their job to protect us from those problems; it's their job to protect our right to pursue our happiness and if they identify a problem, they need to do something about it. So doing nothing, I think will never be the right solution. I think there will always be issues, it's an evolution, it definitely needs to be tweaked.

The ten minutes to run in and get an ice cream or a pizza, I think is important. The street parking, I agree with Harry that probably street parking should be public for the street and

needing parking permits for parking on your own street in front of your own house seems to be against everything that we believe in.

Actually this whole dialogue is counter intuitive, because I would think when this issue first came up six years ago that the Downtown Merchants and the Chamber of Commerce would be vehemently against paid parking because it would effect their businesses and that citizens would be for paid parking because they would think that the burden for the paid parking should go on the user and not on City subsidized or paid lots, which I have one of them, so I understand all that. But, it was the exact opposite and I never quite got it and frankly I thought it was just a couple people that were against it and the broader picture and broader response would accept it. Coming here tonight you look back and say what are we doing wrong and what do we need to do different.

I think that we do need to have paid parking. I think the system needs to definitely be adjusted, the kiosks. Every comment that was made here was logical and made sense and that is why we are having this meeting to have this dialogue. I think the overall process needs to move forward, this is a pilot program and I think the same way we may have gone a bit farther and been a bit overzealous in the implementation we can be overzealous in the response either. It needs to be measured, we need to talk and have a dialogue and develop a consensus that works for everybody in this community.

The Downtown Merchants by supporting, I'm not a merchant, I have real estate downtown, but I'm not a merchant and I deferred to their organization and the Chamber that represents them. With all due respect to all the citizens here that feel that the businesses downtown have been impacted, unless you own one and a couple of people who came up and spoke who have businesses here, obviously their position and opinion is valued and that is why these ladies and gentlemen are here listening. But everybody else, it's the Downtown Merchants and their representative the Chamber of Commerce that's representing them. And if they are supporting this then I will defer to what they say in spite of what everyone feels.

I've had my own polls, I think Broadway has been impacted more than Main Street for whatever it's worth. But, again that is something that can be adjusted. It's only been two months, three months. We have a lot to do to improve upon and this process is the only way it'll eventually become something that will serve all residents, all businesses and the interest of the entire city of Dunedin. Thank you.

Bette Saiberlich of 240 President Street advised:

I am a homeowner on President Street, three blocks south of Main. I am an artist in residence of the Stirling Art Studio and Gallery Stirling Commons. I not too long ago read the article by Tom Germond of the Dunedin Beacon, he wrote the article *Paid Parking Spurs Complaints Along Main*. I said I have to say something about this so I wrote him and it will be in the February issue will be my commentary. I felt that this is something that I have; I don't repeat what everybody else has said because people have said things really really well here and I think they have touched the problems.

One situation nobody has said anything about and I will read only a portion of something that affects our Stirling Commons, but it affects all of these, all of these signs which are out around Dunedin. I'm a single woman and I walk and I had my children with me these last two weeks. We walked around and we were confronted with all this signage and they said you know this is so confusing. One thing that I find as a single person is that it is threatening, this may not affect

you people at all, but I took pictures of this and it says the tow away zones on unauthorized vehicles will be towed away; have you ever been towed away; usually the car goes about 40 miles away into some garage and you have to take a cab to get there and it becomes hundreds of dollars, it's not funny.

What my article addressed was the situation we have in Stirling Commons and I gave this to the mayor this afternoon, I have copies that I put on the table, not a lot. Some things that could be addressed with this parking is when we had good situations, big groups coming and other cities do this, you have a place to park outside the area and then people are Jolley Trolleyed into the downtown area. They are more than happy to pay a couple dollars for this and end up being jolly and happy, they talk to each other, it's fun and you ride around and you come in and out. It's a very good way to deal with that sort of situation.

I will read this briefly and let you people carry on. I did write this article and I made a couple of suggestions, I said I give one example and I will read it:

At 730 Broadway Stirling Commons has private parking for Stirling Commons customers only and reserved parking, employees only signage. The owner installed 18 signs prominently throughout the area which also say violators will be towed at your expense, 18 signs every about three cars are these signs, it's scary. This private parking is an honor system reserved for our customers, our need to load and unload artwork and ourselves who pay the rent. By observation I know that people who are not our customers regularly take the spaces, when asked they scoff, say they won't be fined or towed away because after they leave the police don't know what the car owners are actually doing and they also say why should they use the meters when they can use Stirling's free parking.

And if anybody knows me, I'm always out asking people to come and see our art gallery, I wore my sign; I was a little embarrassed, I took it off before I came to the podium and I hand out cards to everybody when I'm walking up and down the streets. I'm very proud of Dunedin, but there was a suggestion with this Jolley Trolley thing.

I also know as a walking person, I bicycle and people come in and out; our town is not a town without a supermarket. I can't buy milk without driving two or three miles to Publix. I know we want all fresh foods and two days during the week don't get it for us on the weekends, it's lovely, it's fun, but that green market doesn't supply a little grocery store that we as people walking around can just stop in and get our eggs, our milk, our bread.

This is a possibility and everybody said this, you see people coming in and out, oh my gosh I've gotta leave now, my meter's running out and people will ask, oh will you come back again, no we won't come back again. This is really destroying our businesses here in Dunedin and we're not getting the people to come and visit us anymore. Thank you.

Sue Armagost of 423 Paula Drive South #204 advised:

I have one thing to add, not going to bore you with the rest. None of our elected officials can tell me what's happening to the registration information that the company is collecting. You can access my name, my address, my personal information and I'm not willing to give that up to park downtown. I would like to know where that information is going, All I have been told so far is they will keep it private. Who has faith in that, not me. How many times have you changed your credit card this year. I have concerns, have privacy concerns, everybody's after my money you can have my dollar to park you can have my plate. Thank you.

Eric Elsesser of 433 Paula Drive South #23 advised:

I'm speaking for my wife Michelle. We live out on Dunedin Causeway. My thing is that nobody really talks about, this is a tax. It's our local politicians need to raise money I think they need to put their political careers on the line and justify a tax and not just show up, pay your dollar.

Last weekend we brought my parents to the farmers market; complete confusion to get some bananas. You have to pay an extra \$1.50 because we weren't smart enough to realize that you could just pay for 15 or 30 minutes whichever.

My thing is it's a tax, justify it, charge us for it. I think we all enjoyed our quality of life here in Dunedin and if we believe in our politicians then we will keep you and if we think it's not justified then we'll get rid of you.

Karen Hammers of 667 Vine Avenue advised:

I moved to Dunedin a little over a year ago and one of the reasons I moved here was I have family who has lived here for 20 to 30 years and I always heard such great stories about what a wonderful town Dunedin is. I bought a home in Dunedin during the past year also. I'm not going to repeat everything that everyone said already, all the complaints about the parking system.

I worry about the downtown businesses staying in business because I know that I don't bother to go downtown very often anymore because it is such a pain to have to deal with those meters. If I'm just running in for a cup of coffee or a slice of pizza I don't want to have to deal with adding on to the cost of the meter of what I'm buying from the merchant. The meters are way too confusing, I don't want to have to pull out a pair of reading glasses and stand there for 5 or 10 minutes which is what I see people doing because they can't figure out what's on the screen in front of them and all the information that's required.

I heard a rumor from someone else who lives in the community a little while back who said, oh I heard that you don't have to pay for the meters now until 6:00 p.m. at night. I thought I shouldn't just trust the rumor, so I went to the website and on the website one of those photo, slider images, there is a sign that says basically that parking is free Monday-Friday until 6:00 p.m. at night; there is absolutely no explanation on there that is only limited to a certain portion of town. So a week or so ago I parked at the Marina to have lunch with some friends and was quite surprised when I walked out to find that after an hour and half of parking there that I had a warning ticket on my windshield which prompted me to call the parking office and say what is going on. There is no information anywhere that tells any resident who goes to your website where you can park for free during the daytime. I think it would be a great idea if they did eliminate the parking meter requirement during the day for all of downtown Dunedin so for those of us who do want to just stop in business or get an ice cream cone that we don't have to worry about paying for meters and dealing with all that.

The other issue is, I moved here from the Philadelphia area, so I'm very familiar with Chestnut Hill and their impact. I was going to mention something about their system, they did get rid of the attendants though and replaced the attendants with machines, but the good thing about their machines, when you pull into the parking lots, you can pay as much as you want, you can pay for however long you think you are going to be staying at the lot and then the machine prints out a ticket and you put in your windshield and it says boldly on there what time your paid parking ends and you can always go back and extend that time.

I understand the need that there is limited parking and maybe we might have to pay for it, but to have a system in place that is so much easier to use would make a world of difference and I suspect we all wouldn't be here complaining about it, because I don't know about you guys, but I hate it.

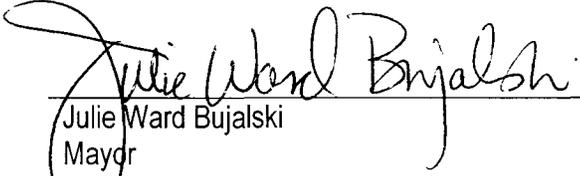
Interim City Manager Hutchens stated:

Well thank you for coming this evening, that was our last speaker that turned in a card; it's almost 8:00 o'clock. What I didn't mention is we have staff taking notes here as well, so they've got some notes; they've been doing some tallying on some commonalities that we've heard tonight and of course we're going to have transcribed minutes. We'll put those minutes on the City's website so you can feel free to see that and make sure that it's an accurate representation of what you said and what you heard this evening.

Just to remind you that on January 26th, the City Commission will be discussing paid parking and getting a quarterly update from the staff. They will be speaking to revenues and expenses to date, the information perhaps on turnover, usage, some trends they are finding and the number of successful versus failed opportunities at the machines, we'll see what the failure/success ratio is. There will be a lot of good information to sort through and help make some informed decisions. What you shared tonight was immensely valuable, thank you very much for not only being here, but having the courage and confidence to speak your mind, share your thoughts, that is going to help us immensely in either refining this program or going in a different direction over time.

Thank you very much for being here this evening, drive carefully, stay safe.

NOTE: The meeting has an audio recording and the recording is in the official file.


Julie Ward Bujalski
Mayor

Attest:


Denise M. Kirkpatrick
City Clerk