

MEETING MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 31, 2006
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
City Council Chambers

MEETING OF THE PARKING SUBCOMMITTEE

Call to Order

The Parking Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 8:08 AM.

Parking Subcommittee

Members Present:	Becky Laing-Austin	Fremont Business Owner
	Marianne Boerigter	Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts
	Jim Rynberg	Fremont City Mayor (Arrived 8:40 AM)
	Bob Stehouwer	Fremont Property and Business Owner
	Leo Verkerk	Fremont Property and Business Owner
	Ron Vliem	Executive Director, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce
Members Absent:	Nadine Andrews	Fremont Property and Business Owner
Staff Present:	Chris Yonker	Fremont City Manager
	Michele Ribant	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director

Issues to be Addressed by the DDA Parking Subcommittee

Michele Ribant indicated that the following issues need to be addressed by the DDA Parking Subcommittee within the next six months to a year:

- Managing Parking on a Permanent Basis for Employees, Residents and Patrons (including parking for horse & Buggy)
- Education for Merchants on the Value of Centrally Locating Refuse and Recycling Containers/Enclosures
- Parking Maintenance Assessment

Ms. Ribant inquired if there were any other issues that anyone felt the Parking Subcommittee should address; none were identified.

Chris Yonker reported that the Fremont City Council voted not to impose a Parking Assessment for the parking lot improvements for the four downtown parking lots since the number of parking spaces would not be increasing. However, he indicated that it is very likely that a Parking Maintenance Assessment will be imposed with the City paying a portion and the downtown property owners paying a portion. The amount of the assessment will reflect the cost of the annual on-going maintenance (e.g., snow removal) of the parking lots. He indicated that City Staff is looking to create a formula for the assessment that is equitable and reflects the usage of the lots by the downtown property owners/business owners.

Discussion on How Best to Manage Parking when Downtown Parking Lots are under Construction

Michele Ribant outlined the sequencing plan for the reconstruction of the downtown NE parking lot. She indicated that some of the utility work has begun and that parking is still available in the entire NE parking lot through mid-November. She went on to say that at no time during the construction period of the NE parking lot will the entire lot be unavailable for parking. Construction work will be performed from November 2006 through July 2007. The Subcommittee agreed that parking in the lot during the construction period should be reserved for patrons of downtown businesses to the extent possible. Therefore, the Subcommittee focused on coming up with alternative parking arrangements for downtown employees. The following parking lots were identified as possible places employees could park during construction:

- Public parking lots on the south side of Main Street
- Fremont Christian Church parking lot
- Fremont Area District Library parking lot

Michele Ribant indicated that she would provide a flyer to downtown businesses letting them know where their employees can park during construction. She indicated that she needed to receive input from the Fremont Christian Church and the Fremont Area District Library before the flyer could be sent. She went on to say that there is a "Construction News" section on the City's Website, which outlines the progress of the downtown NE parking lot improvement project.

The City was also asked to provide feedback to the property/business owners who use the NE parking lot as to how trash pick-up will be handled during the construction period.

New Business

Leo Verkerk asked how the City planned on handling the pick-up of grease on a permanent basis. Michele Ribant indicated that she would get back to the Subcommittee after she discusses it further with Allied Waste or other grease refuse providers.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 AM.