

Sue Harrison

From: Dana Day <dana416@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:59 AM
To: Sue Harrison; Steven P. McAlearney
Subject: Recommendation for Parking Committee

I would like the Parking Committee to recommend a Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) for the area north of Truman Avenue, west of White Street and otherwise bounded by the water (Truman Waterfront/Historic Seaport/Etc). The RPZ would operate to reserve parking for RPZ residents with the appropriate sticker between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM. 24-hour visitor stickers would be available for purchase by residents to accommodate houseguests and others. 4-hour stickers would be available for purchase by businesses (e.g. restaurants) operating within the RPZ.

Benefits

- 1) Old Town and Bahama Village residents could park within reasonable proximity to their homes without competing with transient visitors to downtown, tourists who occupy street parking for days without moving, amphitheater patrons and others seeking to avoid paid parking lots.
- 2) More parking because: a) individual spaces would no longer require striping. Parking experts agree this adds 10-15% more parking.; and b) non-resident, overnight parking would be eliminated thus reducing the number of users competing for parking freeing curb space even during the day.
- 3) Cruising for empty, non-residential spaces would be unnecessary. During the day all curb space would be available on a first come/first serve basis. After 6:00 only RPZ stickers are allowed. Traffic is reduced and drivers are focused on driving instead of reading parking space designations. Safety for cyclists and pedestrians is improved.
- 4) Friendly to contractors and others who have business in Old Town and Bahama Village during the day.
- 5) Minimal hardship to those residing outside the RPZ because locals with stickers have 4-hour free parking in three municipal lots plus Duval Loop provides alternate transportation
- 6) Flexibility: RPZ residents aren't required to have RPZ stickers – if you have off-street parking then they can park without having to pay for a sticker. Striped parking can be provided if a handicap is documented. If the RPZ is shown to be overly restrictive (i.e. too much empty parking) then sticker eligibility can be easily expanded: RPZ stickers could be offered to businesses in limited numbers for employees, residents of other areas on the island could be offered RPZ stickers, other ideas could be accommodated. Perhaps six-month stickers could be issued for off-season if parking is unused by residents thus accommodating commuters. The options are endless and easily implemented.
- 7) Easy and inexpensive to adopt. Stickers are purchased so revenue is generated. Maintenance of individually striped spaces no longer required.

This is the “best practice” adopted in a majority of cities with similar parking issues as acknowledged by John Wilkins (KW Parking Director) at the Parking Committee Workshop on May 10. The downtown parking problem has increased dramatically over the years and will continue to do so as hotel rooms are added and amphitheater use increases. Rebalancing the number of resident/non-resident spaces will not increase available curbside parking, reduce cruising, accommodate those doing business downtown, is inflexible and comparatively expensive.