

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

6/3/2024

Item #15: Presentation and Discussion of Policy Options for establishing a Parklet Program (known as the City's Free Range Program) to Increase Opportunities for Creating Public Spaces in the Public Right of Way

- Question: How much is parking spaces in downtown with versus how much we charge for the parklets? Have there been any studies done or conversations with merchants had on making parklets more visually appealing and preventing them from obstructing sidewalks?
 - Response: Parking: The city does not have any metered parking so it would be difficult to determine a parklet fee structure based on a monetary value of a parking space. The staff report recommends a cost neutral program that would account for the city review of a permit that is anticipated to be \$1,000-2,000.00 in range. Depending on the outcome tonight, staff will return with a fee proposal for City Council to consider. Additionally, the city kicked off its downtown parking study this May. One of the outcomes will be a parking inventory, count, and turnover analysis of the public parking spaces downtown.
Design and placement: There have been studies and best practices that city staff were able to draw on to inform this workshop. While the reports also discuss design elements such as aesthetics, they also recommend the city's work with their community and advisory bodies to ensure design is informed by the communities that will use the parklets. One design element that is clear is that parklets should not obstruct sidewalks.