

MEETING MINUTES

Argo Livery Parking Lot Improvement Public Meeting

Held March 9, 2017 at the Northside Community Center

City staff explained that the purpose of the meeting was to present a concept to organize the parking lot to create a more efficient layout as well as to provide additional parking. The concept plan was then presented and meeting attendees commented and asked questions, which are summarized below.

Comments and Questions:

Two dedicated spots for boats with trailers are needed, but the turn around area is not necessary. It is important to retain space for boats to access the launch.

There are at least five trees in the northeast area of the proposed lot that would be lost with this work. Staff needs to confirm the location of memorial trees so as not to damage them during construction or infringe on their root zones.

An underground freshwater spring crosses the north part of the proposed construction. Any impact to the spring needs to be avoided. Expansion of the lot would negatively impact the spring.

Do not want to see loss of any green space. Gaining 15 spots is not worth the impact it will have on the site, and will make no difference with the crowding and site issues. There is a desire to see lot organized but not enlarged.

There is not enough staffing at lots nor is it effective in controlling parking. There is too much congestion in the Argo lot as well as the rental lot.

Incentives should be provided to not park in Argo parking lots.

- Parking is available at the Kellogg lot on Wall Street. Patrons are encouraged to park at this lot. The City's website advertises parking alternatives.
- Staff was working with Arbor Bike at the Argo Livery to provide bikes at Argo and at Gallup so that people may ride between parks rather than drive and take a shuttle back. Unfortunately, this site was not the highest priority for them, but discussions will be ongoing.

Concerns were raised about the cost of renovations compared to value being added.

- Work would be done in-house so the cost will be minimal.

In the design of the lot, there needs to be some type of barrier to make sure that people cannot drive on to grass and that the parking area is clearly delineated.

- Wheel stops would be added to delineate the lot and discourage people from driving onto the grass.

Concern about silt runoff. Parks should consider paving the lot. It is so packed down now that the parking lots are already virtually impermeable. Need to address stormwater impact, and make sure that silt does not runoff into the river.

Les Voyagers need access to the river for their historic canoe. People also enter their site to use water, electricity etc.

Behavior of people is not appreciated by residents

- Parking in driveways
- Using water faucets on houses
- Asking for electricity
- Turning around in driveways

Enforcement is not effective; better control of lots is needed. There was occasional ticketing. Preference to tow offenders. Parking on the grass easement in front of the rented lot is an ongoing problem.

Longshore Drive is too small for the amount of traffic on it. Need to stop people before they enter the area.

- Staff is directed to turn people back once the lots are full, however, some people sneak around the other way on Longshore Drive.

Parking staff is too rigid at times – residents are stopped from entering or leaving the neighborhood.

Parking signs are taken down or knocked over regularly. Need to have more permanent signs.

Police are stationed at the Livery but not always readily available when they are needed.

Suggestion to establish a kiosk or pay station at the end of Argo Cascades to reduce the need to drive to the Argo Livery.

The parking problem is a result of activity outgrowing the space – there is an issue of capacity, and this site has outgrown that capacity. Argo is no longer a neighborhood park.

Need to count how many people are bringing their own equipment and not renting boats from the livery. Parks Department should control who uses the park. Construct gates to limit access to cascades. Charge a fee to use the parking lot.

There needs to be better signs to direct traffic – both vehicle and foot.

Follow up items:

1. The parking lot will not be expanded to the north so as to avoid the spring and trees, and decrease impact on existing green space. The lot will be reconfigured to eliminate the boat trailer turn around area. (see revised layout drawing)
2. Staff will continue to monitor and make improvements to the parking situation, including improving signage.