



WESTPORTsm

DOWNTOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

August 2021 Approved Minutes

Thursday, August 19 | 8:30 AM

In attendance: Chair: Randy Herbertson; Members: Melissa Kane, Ken Bernhard, Peter Ratkiewich, Pippa Bell Ader, Sara Harris, Matthew Mandell, Deirdre O'Farrelly, Jen Fava, Kim Willson, Alicia Mozian; Staff: Donna Douglass

The Downtown Plan Implementation Committee held a remote public meeting at 8:30 a.m. on **Thursday, August 19, 2021** for the following purposes:

- I. Opening Remarks - Chair
 - A. Overall Meeting Goals: *To advance in our visioning for Parker Harding and Jesup parking lots and to get budgeting for those projects and to make progress on the Special Services District.*
 - B. [New website](#) (pw: dpic): *Relaunched DPIC website.*

No action taken

- II. Approval of Minutes (6/17/21 Meeting)
MOTION (made by Bernhard): To approve the minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting.
SECOND: Mandell
VOTE: Unanimously approved.

- III. Strategic Priority Review

- A. [CY 2021 Goals](#)

- B. Parking Lots Reinvention

1. Baldwin Lot: *It is almost ready for construction documents, needs the last facet of finalizing the electrical plan.*

- a) Funding status & timing: *Already has BOF, P&Z, VDO approvals, going to RTM 9/14. Hoping to be out to bed late fall and start early spring as weather permits with hope to be completed by the Downtown Arts Festival.*

2. Parker Harding

- a) [Early vision 1](#) and [2](#): *To create a boardwalk walking loop extending the walkway, install a pedestrian bridge to extend Gorham Island to Parking Harding riverfront.*

- b) Next planning steps: *Finalize vision documents to prepare for commissioned plans to get a budget estimate for the capital forecast. Potential for ARPA funding for this step.*

3. Jesup:

- a) [Early vision](#): *Enlarge the waterfront green space, add playground, potentially adding public docking, playground feature, address some level of use of the current top police station parking lot, to be further vetted with that department.*

4. Imperial Lot

- a) New priority: *fixture for a more permanent Westport Farmers' Market use, redo lighting and other safety measures, make as another entrance to Downtown.*
- b) Next planning steps: *Inspiration drawing to come.*

C. Pedestrian Access

1. Streetscape Improvements

- a) Funding status & timing: *Has BOF and VDO approvals going to RTM 9/14. Adding trash and recycling receptacles, benches, bike racks.*

2. Wayfinding Status:

- a) *Continues to move forward, going through editing and proofing, is at DOT. Funding being proposed from ARPA. Finalized documents will be ready this fall.*

D. Sustainability

- 1. Saugatuck River [Dredging update](#): *\$2.8 million have been secured from the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for funding the dredging. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled for survey work this fall, then an environmental assessment needs to be done, then approval for where the materials will be disposed of. It is a long project. The monies allocated cover the cost of the dredging but not the Army Corps whose funding come from federal representatives.*

E. Maintenance

1. Special Services District

- a) [Last Ordinance Draft](#)
- b) Cost development

No action taken.

IV. Opportunities

A. [Cultural District](#)

No action taken.

V. To adjourn the meeting.

Motion (made by Ader): To adjourn the meeting.

Second: Mozian
Meeting adjourned 9:32 AM.

Randy Herbertson, Chair
Downtown Plan Implementation Committee
September 15, 2021