Downtown Crystal Lake Parking Committee

UPDATE: August/September 2021

Additional parking coming to Downtown Crystal Lake.

The Committee had a second meeting at the end of August. The meeting resulted in a positive and productive discussion on the current parking trends and how to make some quick adjustments to address the parking concerns, which is summarized below.

Meeting Outcomes:

- One of the major observations from the business owners is that employees and residents of the second-story apartments are parking on Williams Street and in the 4-hour parking lots, which is taking away from the available customer parking.

  a) To address this parking issue, the City sent a letter on July 26th to business owners and residents of Downtown to educate them on the Z-Lot passes and how to obtain them if they do not have private parking lots.
  b) When Z-Lot passes are sold some business information is provided. This information will be reviewed and can be used to help determine if businesses without private parking are not purchasing Z-Lot passes. City staff will work with the Downtown Association on this item.
  c) To ultimately solve this problem, the Police Department will continue to enforce the parking time limits by first issuing warning tickets and then citations to the violators to open up these prime parking spaces intended for customers and visitors to our Downtown.

- A Downtown parking space survey was conducted by the summer interns and the data is being analyzed by Engineering Division staff. The survey looked at the number of occupied parking spaces and the duration of parking by the vehicles on weekdays and Saturdays to possibly improve the turnover efficiency of these spaces. Fun fact: There are 634 parking spaces located on the streets and 4-hour parking lots! This does not include any of the Metra lots that turn into free parking after 4:00pm.

- The visibility of the public parking wayfinding signage was reviewed with the committee. City staff recommended adding traditional public parking wayfinding signage around the Downtown. The committee agreed with the proposed change and the proposal went to the Downtown Association Board for feedback. The Downtown Association Board agreed with the recommendations.

- To increase parking overall, two solutions were proposed and reviewed by the committee, which is summarized below. The recommendations went to the Downtown Association Board for feedback. The

Downtown Association Board agreed with the recommendations. The recommendations will be presented to the City Council as part of the Capital Improvement Projects for the upcoming budget year.

a) Adding angled parking spaces to Grant Street – this would add six parking spaces to the area. The committee agreed with the recommendation.
b) Adjustments at the intersection of Williams Street and Crystal Lake Avenue – three proposals were presented by city staff to the committee. The first proposal was minor in nature and gained two parking spaces. The second included the removal of the parkway trees and gained three parking spaces. The last proposal includes removing the central landscape island at the intersection, narrowing the turning lanes, adding more usable public gathering space and results in a gain of four parking spaces. The last option was favored by the committee and Downtown Association because it addresses multiple concerns that have been raised about Williams Street (wrong way driving, parking and pedestrian safety).

Downtown Crystal Lake businesses are welcome to share any other parking related concerns with the City by emailing planning@crystallake.org. The concerns will be reviewed at the next Parking Committee meeting. Thank you!