

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **REQUESTS FOR PARK(ING) DAY**

BACKGROUND:

Faculty from the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture plan to implement a class project related to Park(ing) Day, on Friday, September 17. Park(ing) Day is held in cities across the world on the third Friday of September; on this day, participants repurpose metered parking spaces into public gathering spaces using parklets. The parklets are assembled, enjoyed by the public, and disassembled in one day.

Students in the Landscape Architecture 301: Site Design II class will be organized into six groups. Each group will be assigned a location in the Downtown consisting of two metered parking spaces (one for the parklet itself and one for equipment and supplies required during the assembly process). The groups will prepare designs and present them to a panel of Landscape Architecture practitioners for feedback.

The students have met with representatives from each of the businesses adjacent the closed parking spaces. The parklet designs will be presented to a panel of the adjacent business owners and City staff from Public Works and Inspections. City staff's feedback will focus primarily on traffic safety, stormwater flow at the curb and gutter, and construction integrity/safety.

The proposed locations are indicated in detail on the attached map. Two parking spaces each will be used in front of:

- Ames Public Library
- Evert's Flowers
- Cook's Emporium/Nook& Nest/ZW Mercantile
- Chocolaterie Stam
- Octagon Community Gallery
- Dog-Eared Books

To facilitate this project, organizers have requested a suspension of parking regulations and enforcement and waiver of fees for 12 metered parking spaces in the Downtown on September 17 (estimated \$12 loss to the Parking Fund). A Temporary Obstruction Permit will also be issued.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requests for a Temporary Obstruction Permit, suspension of parking regulations and enforcement and waiver of fees for 12 metered parking spaces.
2. Approve the requests but require reimbursement for lost parking meter revenue.
3. Do not approve the requests.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City has previously hosted parklets designed by ISU students in Downtown and Campustown over a multiple-week display period. These were safe and successful efforts that added to the vibrancy of the community. The proposed project is limited to one day in scope, and will encourage collaboration between students, City staff, and the adjacent businesses whose patrons will have the opportunity to appreciate the temporary parklet spaces.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.



**Park(ing) Day: September 17, 2021
Proposed Parklet Locations**