

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: RESERVED VAN-ACCESSIBLE PARKING STALL (CBD LOT X)

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2013, City Council referred a letter from Shelley Jaspering requesting that an existing van-accessible stall in CBD Parking Lot X be also designated as a reserved parking stall. Ms. Jaspering is a small business owner located in the Town Center building, which is directly adjacent to the east side of Tom Evans Park in the Downtown district.

Over the last year, Ms. Jaspering has been utilizing the on-street accessible parking stalls along Burnett Avenue using the City parking passes for disabled employees in the Downtown; this system provides extended time parking in accessible stalls for the cost of \$3/day. At that time Ms. Jaspering's business was located in one of the Main Street level leased spaces. However, her business has since moved to the lower level of the Town Center building that is only accessed from the back side of the building facing the CBD Lots by way of a concrete accessible ramp.

Currently, there are no van-accessible reserved stalls in the Ames parking system that are designated for disabled users only; meaning, parking stalls that have 8 feet parking space and an 8 foot striped landing area for wheelchair/ramp access and are signed as accessible, therefore requiring the user to display a permit. The parking stall in question is located in the far north-east corner of the CBD Lot X, stall 398H; a map of the parking stall has been provided as an attachment.

This situation is a rare occurrence not only for the Downtown, but other business districts in Ames alike, which is why such a facility does not already exist. The City's ADA Coordinator and staff in Public Works are in the process of taking inventory of all public parking stalls in Ames and applying the standards set forth in the Public Rights-of-Way Accessible Guidelines (PROWAG) to create a compliance and priority plan that eventually will become part of the City's overall ADA Transition Plan. The plan could potentially identify full reconstruction of public accessible stalls analogous to the City's pedestrian curb ramp replacements. These improvements would happen either during a street reconstruction or as a standalone project.

After meeting on-site to discuss the situation it appears that the most straight forward and cost effective solution would be to designate one of the existing accessible stalls in CDB Lot X as a reserved stall; this would make use of the City's established process of a monthly rental contract in which the fee is \$35/month. Utilizing a parking stall that is not already designated as accessible would create numerous ADA compliance issues in having to bring that stall up to current standards.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an update the Parking Meter Map to show parking stall 398H in CBD Lot X as a reserved van-accessible stall (398RH). Establishing a rate of \$25/month, Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. All other standard reserve contract provisions apply.
2. Approve an update the Parking Meter Map to show parking stall 398H in CBD Lot X as a reserved van-accessible stall (398RH). Using the existing rate of \$35/month for all hours, all days. All standard reserve contract provisions apply.
3. Reject the request and keep stall 398H as a van-accessible parking stall, 4-hour time limited.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving this change the City will be able to be responsive to Ms. Japsering's request, thereby creating a reserved space that she can utilize for her business. This approach will also allow staff time to continue efforts to update the ADA transition plan to include the application of new PROWAG standards to all public on-street parking and parking lot stalls.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving an update the Parking Meter Map to show parking stall 398H in CBD Lot X as a reserved van-accessible stall (398RH). Establishing a rate of \$25/month, Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. All other standard reserve contract provisions apply.

Attachment (1)

