

Item 24-0498: Approve request from Creative Downtown Appleton, Inc. and Appleton Downtown, Inc. to install a parklet on the north side of Washington Street (NW corner of Washington Street and Appleton Street) at parking stall #289 per the On-Street Parklet Policy

Municipal Services Committee
Mon, Apr 22, 2024, 4:30PM

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:14

Item 24-0498 approve request from Creative Downtown Appleton Inc and Appleton downtown Inc to install a parklet on the north side of Washington Street, Northwest corner of Washington Street in Appleton Street, at parking stall number 289 per the on street parklet policy.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:34

Move to approve.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 11:35

Second.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:36

All right, we have a motion and a second. Are there any questions, comments? Miss Stephany, do you want to—do you want to talk to us about this at all or? Oh, I'm sorry.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 11:52

[Off microphone] I don't have any additional comments.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:54

Okay.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 11:54

I'm here for questions.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:55

Okay.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 11:55

If there are any.

[Aldersperson Fenton fiddled with the microphone controls.]

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 12:17

Okay. Great. So the parklet proposal that we submitted is the same location that we utilized last year. We did check in with the department to see if there were any additional concerns. We did also check in with the adjacent property owner, Mark McGuire, to see if he had any concerns. He was very supportive of the project moving forward, and we had good feedback from the department. So we're happy to continue as planned or make any adjustments that we need to.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:50

Alright, thank you. I just have a question. I noticed—I mean, it's the same place as last year, and that seemed a little out of the way. Did you have good usage of the parklet in that location last year?

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 13:03

We had okay usage of it. I'm not going to say it was great usage, but the ordinance doesn't allow for it to be on College Avenue. So we have to be somewhat selective. We're also trying to be mindful of how many parking stalls we're utilizing both from a user standpoint as well as an expense standpoint. So this particular location really lends itself to meet a couple of needs. We do think that the usage will increase now that there are tenants within the Urbane 115 unit as well as we see the Appleton Public Library come online and some of those other projects within the North neighborhood. So we do see this location as having potential. We'll say that.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 13:03

All right, thank you.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 13:08

Yes.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 13:16

Any other questions? Alder Meltzer?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 13:54

Yeah, I was I was gonna ask a similar question, but I got some feedback last year that people didn't really like the location of it, that they felt that they would like to see a different location. So I don't know what our future options will be for next year, but hopefully people will warm up to this one if this is the most strategically desirable one for the city.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 14:19

Did they suggest any locations?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 14:22

I think that people have the idea that on the little side streets coming off of College Avenue, it would be nice to have one there so that you're not like walking the entire—like you know, there's the one block between College and Washington. So having a space there instead of all the way on Washington was kind of the general—sort of the general thought there.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 14:51

Any other suggestions from committee members?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 14:56

Alder Wolff. He's not a committee member but—

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 15:01

So I—like you know, where the bluff side is naturally behind the YMCA, and how there's a big parking lot. That's, you know, a lot of college students live there, and potentially putting one there so that they have a place to sit. And I realize that's a little bit off at the Ave, but at the same time, they might enjoy it there as well. It might get used a lot.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 15:25

So we actually looked at like the end of Oneida as it comes up to the bluff site, because there's a curb cut there into the site, but the unit is designed to be up against a curb. So we didn't know if that quite worked and if it met the requirements of what what's in the policy. So we, we opted to go back to our old location. We looked at a couple of options on Lawrence Street actually. We ended up back on Washington.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 15:58

Thank you. Any other questions? Alder Firkus?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 16:00

Thank you, Chair. I think there might be some attraction to this because you really get to watch a lot of the construction that's going on in that area. So this might actually be a nice spot for people that are kind of curious and want to see progress on the library and the other projects in the area.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 16:14

Any chance there's any way to—one thing I noticed about that, you're really taking a beating in the sun sitting on that thing. Is there any possibility? I'm trying to kind of do one last look through here because—is it possible to add an umbrella to these things? Or is it kind of one of those instances like, yeah, somebody's probably gonna take it. And.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 16:31

I probably wouldn't feel comfortable from a safety standpoint adding an umbrella. Just—we have such high winds on occasion coming through these corridors that I probably from an insurance and safety standpoint wouldn't necessarily feel comfortable. I know with our plantings really struggled in this location. So we have talked about was there a way we can put a little something just over the planters that might help them? We're exploring that. I don't I don't know if that'll work or not.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:05

Just worth a worth of mentioned, I thought, but no, I think it could be—you know, especially as that area builds up, that might end up being—your kind of your plotting before everything else builds up that eventually it will become an even hotter location to visit I think.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 17:19

We did see good usage on Saturday mornings during Farm Market, and that was kind of what led us to want to return to that location.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:28

Thank you.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 17:29

Anything else? Anybody else? All right.

Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated) 17:32

Thank you.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 17:33

Thank you. Appreciate you coming down for this. Alright, if there are no other questions or comments, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. That passes four zero.