

**FOOD TRUCK POLICY ADVISORY WORK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
3/24/14**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. and the Convener stated that there appeared to be a consensus on the hours for food trucks in designated spaces within the traffic corridors. All agreed that 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. was fine, with 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon being reserved for food trucks only. If no food trucks park in the designated spaces by 12:00 noon, the spaces would be open to anyone.

A brief discussion of next steps ensued. The Convener noted that the draft Work Group report would be circulated to all members for comments prior to it being transmitted to the City Manager. She also noted that there may need to be another meeting depending on the comments.

A discussion of the specific location of food trucks in the Market Square area began next with the Convener suggesting that the Work Group consider moving the King Street traffic corridor's 100 block of Royal Street cluster parking location for food trucks to the 400 block of King Street (next to the side of the PNC Bank). Several Work Group members requested the rationale for the proposed change. The response was that from a historic preservation perspective, some Old Town residents believe that food trucks should not be on the same block as historic properties, and several had suggested the King Street location in lieu of Royal because of Gadsby's Tavern. Member questions/comments were:

- Moving to King Street undermines what we were trying to do. Several members verbally agreed with this statement and noted that the Royal Street location had already been voted on.
- The Royal Street location will activate Market Square. One member stated that she had surveyed the area and pictures of Gadsby's Tavern can be taken without food trucks being in the sightline.
- Are we setting a precedent? Will all historic properties be included?
- Food trucks are no different than trucks in loading zones in the historic district. Are you removing all loading zones? You can't treat food trucks different from other commercial vehicles.

The Convener then moved the discussion to whether Washington Street should be designated as a transit corridor. Convener asked one of the Old Town residents to provide a history of Washington Street and why it should be protected as a historic site. Work Group member comments are below.

- Should not have food trucks in a permanent way on Washington Street.
- The high volume of vehicles on Washington Street requires some level of regulation; however, not all of Washington Street is historic.
- Food trucks are going to happen. Be careful about opening Pandora's box. The SUP system works. We have a nice City, and need to be cautious.
- Not all of Washington Street meets the concerns of other traffic corridors.
- We should rely on staff here.

- Vending in a historic district is the issue.
- One member asked if food trucks were allowed in D.C. on busy streets in the historic districts like Capitol Hill, in southeast near the Navy Barracks, and Georgetown. Response was there are designated spaces for the food trucks.
- I drove Washington Street, and other than the blocks close to King Street, there is no density.
- Restaurants on S. Washington Street have outdoor dining. Where are the people? Food trucks will not go where there are no people.
- Food trucks should be allowed in Old Town but not on Washington Street.

The Convener then asked members of the audience if anyone had any thoughts on whether Washington Street should be designated as a traffic corridor. Their comments were as follows.

- The Alexandria brand is laden with historic images. This need to be retained and not diluted. Food trucks should not be allowed.
- There is no park space with benches on Washington Street.
- Do not allow in the Old and Historic District. There are major traffic problems on Washington Street.

A motion was offered, “Because Washington Street is also as congested a traffic corridor as King Street. Washington Street should be added as a fourth corridor.” After a discussion of potential designated parking cluster locations with no decision and questions regarding whether the vote would be legal, the Work Group members voted 6 for a Washington Street corridor, 3 abstentions, and 1 opposed. Questions were immediately raised about the legality of the vote, and staff was directed to note in the summary that the vote was taken with extreme confusion. No consensus was reached on designated parking clusters.

Questions were raised about whether roaming would be allowed. The Convener responded that there are two dies to that argument. One Work Group member said his preference is for food trucks to be allowed to roam in Alexandria.

Finally, the issue of food trucks in mixed use developments was discussed. One member stated that she thought such locations could be advantageous.

The meeting was adjourned.