

3/13/2013
Fulton Neighborhood Association
Red Cow Restaurant Concerns

Restaurant owners Luke and Tracy Shimp reported that the restaurant opened about a month ago. There are approximately 120 seats in the restaurant, 20 staff per shift and 9 parking stalls. Wuollet's Bakery offers another 15 stalls for a total of 20 parking stalls. Residents expressed that the restaurant is putting a great deal of parking pressure on the 4900 blocks of Drew and Chown from 1 p.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. daily.

Luke has done several things to try to alleviate the parking pressure:

- Staff has been asked to park at least two blocks away or in the nearby ramps at 50th and France. They have been provided maps showing the no parking zone
- More walking and biking from staff and patrons is expected when the weather improves
- Wuollet's allows the use of their lot after 6 p.m.
- They are planning to post signs requesting that patrons be kind/considerate to their neighbors. They will also post this on their website.

Residents reported that cars are parking too close to driveways and intersections; they are calling the police and having cars towed. The lack of parking is affecting the quality of life for the residents on Drew and Chown—they are unable to park on their own blocks, visitors can't park on their block and they are being disturbed by alarms beeping, engines roaring, talking, etc. The use of the building has changed from a quick stop (video store) to a longer stay (restaurant).

Jennifer Swanson, aide to Councilmember Betsy Hodges (Ward 13) reviewed the City's process for determining how many spaces are needed. A formula based on the square footage of the space is then modified by the addition of bike racks and a Pedestrian Overlay District. The end result is that the restaurant is required to have 8 parking stalls. Questions were raised about the possibility of designating the two streets as Critical Parking Zones. This process has already begun per a resident request. The first step in the process is an Evaluation of the problem. Residents requested that this be done at peak times, not just during the day. The next steps are then a Petition to neighbors (75% must agree), Determining Guidelines (hours, days of the week, etc.) and then City Council approval. Jennifer noted that there are only 31 Critical Parking Zones in the City and they are typically in close proximity to a hospital, school, transit hub or sports facility. Should the zone be approved, residents would be allowed to purchase up to two annual permits (\$25 each) and a visitor permit (\$10). They could also apply for a special permit for an event.

Further discussion was held regarding the problems with cars parking within 30 ft. of an intersection, cars parking within 5 ft. of a driveway, delivery trucks blocking intersections and difficulties crossing the street at 50th and Drew. Jennifer will check on signage to address the intersection and driveway parking, the Evaluation of the Critical Parking Zone, and the possibility of crosswalks. Luke will pay for the driveway signage, talk to Lake Harriet United Methodist Church about use of their parking lot and will speak to his vendors about their delivery trucks.

Lastly, a resident highlighted the importance of being proactive and responding to notices for variances and liquor license notices.