

Memo

To: Jim Walsh, Fort Williams Park Committee Chair
From: Matthew E Sturgis, Town Manager
CC: Council Chair Jessica Sullivan, File
Date: August 9, 2018
Re: Pay Display Parking at Fort Williams Park

Dear Jim,

At the Monday, June 11, 2018 town council meeting the concept of pay display parking at Fort Williams Park was discussed. After the council considered the question of pay display, a motion was made to direct the Town Manager to ask the Fort Williams Park Committee for recommendations on how the Town may proceed with a pay display system at Fort Williams.

As part of this request, the Town would like recommendations on such items as including but not limited to the following: 1. What is the capacity of the Fort? How many cars can the parking areas accommodate? 2. Should paid parking be required all year or for only peak tourism months? 3. What is the percentage of Maine resident vs. non resident use? 4. What would a recommended fee structure be, and what would the estimated revenues and expenses be? 5. How would enforcement and collection of unpaid fees be managed? 6. How would pay display affect sporting events for local teams? There are other questions that your committee members may also identify that will need to be addressed.

The agile manner in which your committee responded to the question of bus and trolley traffic reflects the operational knowledge of the park that will only help in considering the many facets of this question. The desire is to have informed guidance on this issue so the council may move forward. It is my understanding that the Park Committee does not traditionally meet during the months of July and August, however, the special committee that was created to address the bus / trolley question was a successful model. If such a special committee could be formed from the Fort Williams Park Committee and work on this issue during the committee's down time. That could be a workable solution. The council will be meeting on both July 9 and August 13, and it would be ideal to have a recommendation for council consideration at one of these meetings. I am also making myself available to assist in this process, as well as other staff members.

Please let me know if the committee can respond to this request, if the desired time frame also works, and if there are additional questions do not hesitate in contacting me.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.