

Sue Farwell  
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To our esteemed Town Council,

Marico Sayoc  
Barbara Spector  
Marcia Jenson  
Rob Rennie  
Steve Leonardis

I have read the draft for the parklet pilot program and I feel there are serious flaws with the proposed use of the parklets, unless the Town of Los Gatos is paying for the construction, insurance and maintenance of the parklets.

I am a big proponent of the parklets. I feel that they will serve the town well by bringing a greater awareness of dining opportunities and will increase retail business at the same time as more people stop to enjoy our wonderful downtown.

As traffic slowly moves thru Los Gatos the parklets serve as a visual reminder and an attraction for both new and old patrons of our downtown. Nothing is better for business than more business; a full vibrant outdoor dining parklet will do just that, entice people to stop and stay.

The parklets can provide a benefit to the town, the property owners and their respective tenants that want to participate in the program. There are still several issues/factors that need further consideration to include: design and construction, insurance and indemnification, maintenance and the permitted use.

If you want the parklets to work as an attraction and benefit for the town, and you want a private/public partnership to build these you need to change the usage of the parklet to allow 100% use of the parklet for outdoor dining during business hours.

By allowing unsupervised public use of the parklet it is an insurance question, I do not have a cost from my insurance broker yet, but I would be interested in the town's policy on insurance for these parklets. This is not insurmountable, but the cost for the property owner and the restaurant are a major consideration.

The usage for outdoor dining is a combination of physical space directly adjacent to the restaurant and control of that space. The Health Department and the ABC will have to sign off on the parklet, and one of those requirements is control and access for alcohol service. If you require the parklet to be open to the public at all times it will likely cause the ABC and perhaps even the Health Department to deny the outdoor table service. You would essentially be building a parklet for "take-away" food instead of creating an enticement to stop and enjoy the downtown.

The other glaring issue is the 2 parklet maximum during the pilot program. It will be years before we have the opportunity to widen our sidewalks even if the decision is made this summer after the trial one-way street. The vision of the parklet program should be the more the merrier. Multiple parklets full with patrons and the public will create a new energy, vibrancy that is currently lacking in town.

Please be a proponent of parklets for the downtown. Allow as many parklets as there are applications. Allow public use, but allow only private use during the restaurants hours of operation. Be an advocate for our downtown of vitality and vibrancy, reward our current restaurants and provide an opportunity for them to offer outdoor dining. With the current closures of retail and restaurant spaces downtown as well as the summer beach traffic, it make sense for the Town Council, to provide this opportunity to the business community and support their efforts to thrive, not just survive.

Sincerely,  
Sue Farwell