



July 17, 2012

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PARKLET INSTALLATIONS

At the request of downtown business owners, the City of Kalispell has developed standards for the trial of “Parklet” installations. Following is a brief description of what a parklet is, where parklets can be used, and how this affects business owners in the Kalispell Business Improvement District (BID).

What is a Parklet?

The idea behind a parklet is to provide an economical way for local business owners to expand their available space by temporarily occupying street parking spots. This is accomplished by constructing an extension of the business across two or more parallel parking spaces on the street. The parklets develop an inviting environment for patrons by creating a unique outside atmosphere for patrons to enjoy. Parklets can be used to create outside seating and dining, provide additional bike storage, or potentially provide businesses with additional space to display store products for customer perusal. All of these benefits are meant to support our local businesses and keep Kalispell’s economy strong and vibrant.

Where Can a Parklet be Utilized?

Parklets can only be utilized in the City of Kalispell BID. In order to construct a parklet, the business owner must meet the minimum requirements set forth in the *B.I.D. Parklet Public Right of Way Permit*. An interested business owner must complete the aforementioned application and submit it to the City of Kalispell Public Works Department for review and approval. A licensed contractor must construct the parklet, and meet the minimum requirements for working in the right-of-way.

How Does this Change Affect My Business?

Parklets are intended to promote business inside the BID. Although parklets provide more space for approved businesses, they accomplish this by occupying available downtown parking. However the appeal of exploring these outside spaces is thought to encourage patrons visiting downtown shops, stores, and galleries to take their time and make multiple stops. Parklets are seasonal installations and will be installed and removed at the business owner’s expense. Parklets are being approved on a trial basis, pending local comments and review of their impacts to local business, pedestrian safety, traffic flows, and City infrastructure.

Parklets are only approved for temporary use in the right-of-way and will be permitted from May 15 to Oct. 31. The Public Works Department reserves the right to request earlier removal if necessary for snow removal activities.

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Photos of parklets in Park City, Utah were graciously provided by Pam Carbonari.