
From: Julie Snow <julie.snow134@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 4:41 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Subject: Support of 2nd St. Parklets

-EXTERNAL-

Hello Zoning Administration and Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the Legends parklet on 2nd St in Belmont Shore. Legends had a parklet before that was very nicely maintained and was a great asset to our community. So many of us enjoyed it. Of course, there is a small but loud contingency of neighbors that feel that those small amount of parking spots are going to be the 'make it or break it' for parking in Belmont Shore. I never feared for my life while dining but instead, loved sitting outside and sometimes bring our pup out to enjoy the day.

Please mark my husband and I down as supporters of the parklets. Please allow Legends to continue with their planned parklet.

Most sincerely,

Julie & Robert Snow

From: onemouse11 <onemouse11@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 10:44 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Subject: Parklets are problematic

-EXTERNAL-

Commissioner s, please leave the narrow pedestrian public right of way just that. Kindly, do not allow the parklets to return. Instead of allowing restaurants to use our public sidewalks, let us keep our sidewalks for what they are intended, allowing pedestrians to walk safely.

Now that 2nd Street has been cleared of the parklets, it is so much easier and safer to walk past the many shops and restaurants. The dirt and smells from the parklets. Many overserved clients when the bars closed would relieve themselves/using them as urinals. Please, please leave the sidewalks without compromise.

I have been able to talk my evening walks and it is again most enjoyable, without the need to dart around waiters serving food from the restaurant premises to the outside tables.

I usually eat one or two times a week at one of the Belmont Shore restaurants and once again I'm enjoying going to 2nd Street. It no longer looks trashy but upscale as it should be. It is a destination place and a gem and needs to be kept gleaming and clean. Now, when driving down 2nd Street, one can easily see the many businesses as the parklets have been removed that were blocking the view of the many store fronts.

Parking has been difficult as I use the Belmont Shore Business center to receive my ordered merchandise and medications to avoid porch pirate theft from my front door. The goods are delivered to the business center until I can pick them up. In the last 4 weeks, as I need to use my vehicle to pick up the mail and packages I often need to drive around the block several times to find a parking space. Should parklets resume, it will again impact parking as they would take up parking spaces creating additional parking problems. The area is considered a parking impacted area and should not be made worse by taking parking spots away for parklets.

Don't allow parklets. Let's avoid a return of a seedy, dirty looking business corridor. Don't allow them to return and be unfriendly to pedestrians trying walk on the sidewalks. Please vote NO.

Best Regards

Aileen Colon

3rd District Resident

Public Comment 8

Re: Legends Restaurant application for a permanent parklet

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose this application, and I hope you will deny it.

As I have noted in previous correspondence, Second Street in Belmont Shore is very congested nearly all the time: four lanes of speeding vehicular traffic, almost constant delivery and service vehicles blocking the alleys, lanes of traffic, parking spaces, and transit stops. Pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, and pets make the sidewalks congested, and at times, impassable for disabled people. Adding to this sidewalk congestion are businesses which place signage, equipment, and merchandise on the sidewalk in the public right of way.

Parklets simply do not belong on Second Street. This request is only the first of what will be a dozen or more from other restaurants and bars. They would not add any benefit to the public. Restaurants already have outdoor dining available, space which the city granted long ago for sidewalk dining.

Legends owner Eric Johnson stated in his application that a parklet is “critical to the success of Legends”. I have lived in Belmont Shore for forty years. That entire time, Legends has been a thriving and popular business. It has survived a devastating fire which required the complete rebuilding of the business and more recently the Covid pandemic. Legends is thriving today. A parklet is clearly not “critical” to success.

Commissioners, your charter and responsibilities are clear in your name: “Planning Commission”. It is your duty to plan and guide the development of the city. Your responsibility is to the citizens of the city, both businesses and residents. Approving a parklet for Legends would be a gift of public property for the exclusive benefit of a private business, which hopes to increase its profit by allowing for additional patrons beyond the space they have now. Approval would also open the door for all the other applicants waiting for this gift. Please consider the rights of all the citizenry, not only the desire for additional profits by Legends and other private restaurants. Preserve the public space for the benefit of all and deny this request.

Regards,

Jeff Miller

Alex Medina

From: Rick Clark <geewwwiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 8:50 AM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Subject: The Legends Parklet

-EXTERNAL-

Hello...

As a Belmont Shore resident for 37 years, I'm very concerned about the granting of parklet space to Legends on Second Street. While a necessary situation during the height of the COVID pandemic, the parklet value is now more detrimental than supportive to a healthy 2nd Street.

The sidewalks were meant to be PUBLIC walkways, not profitable extensions of private businesses. I grew tired of having to choose to walk down alleys rather than 2nd St sidewalks to avoid the congestion -- the most noticeable always being the chaotic space in front of Legends. I was disheartened by the cheap appearance and traffic dangers of the parklets. It's not the healthy, vibrant, inviting atmosphere we want for the Shore. And the accident risk in this current time of reckless speed and disregard for laws makes the proposition all the more irresponsible.

Please reject parklet spaces along our overly congested and parking deficient area of Second Street, Belmont Shore. Preserve the public's space for comfortable sidewalk access.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Clark

[REDACTED]

Belmont Shore

Alex Medina

From: Linda Gosztola <lindag@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 9:57 AM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Subject: Objection to Parklets

-EXTERNAL-

I implore you to deny the Parklets and return Belmont Shore to the beautiful walking, shopping and eating area that it used to be.

To ignore the homeowners that pay dearly for the privilege of living in Belmont Shore is criminal. Parking has always been an issue in the "shore", and to remove what little parking there is on 2nd Street should not be allowed.

The restaurants were required to provide a certain amount of parking to be approved (some were grandfathered). Now they are being allowed to enlarge their restaurants, and not provide more parking, but are decreasing what parking they do have.

The residents understood the need to help the restaurants during Covid and wanted to help businesses all we could. We were told they were only temporary. We were misled!

Please deny the Parklets and stand with the resident

Thank you,

Linda Gosztola