

Downtown parking plan gets conceptual approval by city

10-12-83

SANTA CRUZ — A downtown plan to build more parking spaces and to beautify some parking lots was approved "in concept" by the City Council Tuesday.

The plan calls for improvements at the Wells Fargo parking lot, beautification of lots behind Ford's Department Store and the current transit center and continued work on the Walnut Tree lot.

The Walnut Tree lot is being studied to determine if some businesses and/or housing could be combined with the parking lot.

Chairman John Gamman presented the plan from his Downtown Committee, saying a lot of work with the

business and neighborhood communities had gone into it.

Council was told that assuming an additional deck is built at the Ford's lot, 85 spaces would cost \$20,000 per space. If 200 are added, it will cost \$15,000 for each space.

Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said it's a sad turn of economic events that parking spaces now cost more than housing did 20 years ago.

The committee was asked to look at the financial needs of the plan — estimated at around \$1.5 million — and to recommend ways to finance the improvements.

The commission is to report back Nov. 8 with its information.