

## City Clerk Staff

---

**From:** sandie.viall@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 6, 2023 1:18 PM  
**To:** Grp. City Council and City Web Site  
**Subject:** Parking reduction

Greetings,

First of all let me express my appreciation for the difficult tasks you have all taken on in an effort to provide service to our community.

Although I often have many thoughts about the goings on at city council I seldom have written to express those thoughts. This time I feel compelled to write and say my piece as regards the current discussion about reducing parking spaces at new builds. I have been a Missoula resident since 1980. During that time I lived in at least 14 rentals. ( Had to move a lot because landlords kept raising rents and I would be priced out of that home. This meant my children changed homes, schools and friends a lot 😞) I lived in a variety of homes such as trailer houses, apartments and single family dwellings, none of which had garages. Some had a designated parking space but most did not. This meant a constant struggle to be able to park in close proximity to my door. This was important because I had three small children (ages 4, 3 and 1) one of whom had Cerebral Palsy and didn't walk until he was 4 yrs. old. This meant either carrying him or using a stroller. Ever tried pushing a stroller 2 blocks through snow, ice or mud? Plus shepherding the other 2 little ones? And what if I have groceries or household items to bring in. Can't leave the kids in the car to take the groceries in and can't leave the kids in the house while I go back for the groceries. A parking spot directly in front of my door would allow me direct line of sight if the children were in the car or on the porch or in the doorway. As you can see...it was a real dilemma when I had no parking space. Another dilemma was when friends with children would come to visit and there were no visitor parking spots. Also, part of my work throughout the years was to conduct Home Visits that entailed carrying supplies to support those visits. When clients lived in apartment complexes such as Creekside, good luck finding an open visitor space. Would often have to park by the office and carry all supplies though the complex to get to the apartment. Creekside did provide a visitor space for each of the buildings but most times those would already be occupied.

I now am fortunate enough to live in a home with a garage. I no longer have children at home and can park in the garage and bring groceries etc . directly into the house. However I live in a neighborhood that connects with a variety of small businesses and apartment houses. This means that the employees and apartment residents park all along the streets around my house because there are more employees and residents than there are designated parking places at their place of employment or residence.

( Happy to have the businesses and the employed people and the people who have a roof over their heads 😊)

It also means that my son with CP who can now walk short distances and uses public transport can be dropped off a block from my house. If he uses Mountain Line support services they often have to park precariously at the end of the sidewalk because there isn't room to pull fully in to the curb.

Although I fully appreciate the desire to provide more space for another building, or a garden or a small lawn, I am convinced that eliminating parking spaces is not the best answer to the problem. I encourage some long term, thoughtful problem solving be given to this issue.

Thanks for taking the time to hear public input!

Cordially,  
Sandra Viall

Sent from my iPhone