

Downtown group asks for parking opinions

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The consultants hired to prepare a master plan for future development of downtown Rapid City are proposing to change on-street parking from diagonal to parallel from Fifth Street to East Boulevard.

Parking on both Main and St. Joseph streets would be affected by the proposal.

That recommendation and others will be discussed at a public meeting 7 p.m. Monday at the City/School Administration Center council chambers.

The consultants have recommended the parking change because they believe parking is not as much of a problem in the eastern part of downtown as it is in other areas, said Bryan Schnell, executive director of the Downtown Development Corp.

They also believe parallel parking looks better, Schnell said.

"If anybody has got a problem with that, now is the time to say so," he said.

Monday night's meeting is one in a series of such meetings designed primarily for downtown business operators and property owners but open to the general public as well. Schnell said one more meeting probably would be held.

The meeting Monday will deal primarily with traffic and parking concerns, but other aspects of the proposed master plan will be discussed as well, he said.

Consultants hired to prepare the plan will attend the meeting to hear comments and answer questions.