



CSMC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Becky Holt, Linda Magoon, Jeff Nick, Lorre Tucker, Lara Allen, Mark Bouchette, Buddy Singh, Sarah Beal.

Members of the Public: via Zoom

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi, Executive Director. Julia Chalmers, Marketing Specialist.

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Jeff presents the agenda and requests approval
 - Lorre requests to discuss the mural removal
- Agenda is approved

APPROVAL AGENDA: Motion Linda, Lara second. Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 27, 2020 Motion: Becky, Second: Lorre. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- Kara reads statement on behalf of Melissa – Melissa shares concern that Church Street will become a strip mall if nationals take over the street who can afford the rent on the street
 - Shares she hopes the commission is aware of the potential problem and urges that the commission does not allow small business to be pushed out by nationals
- Kara shares statement from John Holland
 - John suggests a small central location for street busking and that music is essential on the street
- John Stork, a circus street performer, shares he is present for questions during discussion over street entertainers
- Chris DeMaggio owner of Mikey's Market Grill Cart, asks if it is a consideration to ban cart vending permanently
 - Kara shares there is no discussion to permanently ban
 - Chris shares that the success of the vendors is tied to the success of the brick and mortar stores and that the stores benefit equally from the cart vendors
- Marianne Ward shares that the vote to remove the mural doesn't represent Burlington's voice and the task force dedicated to it was bias and did not include the voice of the public. Marianne shares her background in race and equality, and that the racial tension in the City will not be solved by the removal of the mural
 - Lorre shares she agrees with Marianna and believes the mural was meant to be joyful and should stay and a second mural should be made.

CHAIRS REPORT:

- Jeff shares that the commission is aware and extremely concerned about the state of the street's businesses
- Jeff shares Kara and the city are doing a great job working to fix this and hopes this will continue

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- Kara shares City initiatives
 - The Making Space initiative is allowing business to spill out further to vend outside
 - Grab and Go spaces are available for curbside pick up
 - Kara is keeping a close eye on the funding coming from the State
 - Marketing funding, direct consumer funding and grants/loans
 - A City-wide marketing campaign is in the works using emergency funds
- Police are handling rallies on the marketplace rather than the CSM office to ensure safety
- Merchants met multiple times to discuss the BLM movement with Tyeastia and discussed steps to take to make a difference
 - Merchants are organizing BLM flags to be displayed on the street

STREET ENTERTAINER PROGRAM:

- Kara shares 2 key factors
 - A vibrant and programmed street encourages people to come and feel like the street is open for business
 - Concern for overcrowding is important
- Sarah asks if cart vendors and street entertainers can be included in the making space initiative
- Sarah reiterates John Storks suggestion of creating a designated space for entertainers
- Sarah shares she is willing to work with cart vendors and wants to figure this out
- Mark shares that he wants the vendors and entertainers back on the street and worries singing spreads the virus but musicians could be great
- Sarah suggests we have input from higher ground or nectars
- Kara suggests delaying the program 2 weeks if we want to come up with a new strategy for the programs to be discussed in the next meeting
- Linda shares she wants them back on the street and agrees with Kara that time is needed to make this plan
- Becky asks if we can make restrictions based on performers' act
- Lorre suggests that 1 or 2 people focus on this project to find the best solutions to have performers on the street and figure out what is possible
- Jeff reiterates John's suggestion to create a stage or utilizing empty storefronts
- Lorre asks if Kara sees it as a possibility to manage and enforce a program
 - Kara shares it is not possible with the staff team to manage 24/7 and maintain a stage
 - Kara shares she will look into it further to figure out any possibilities
- Sarah shares Red Square and other businesses could host performances
- Lara shares she would like to have live music at her store
- Kara shares this is fine
- Sarah makes the motion to extend the suspension of street entertainer program for one month and encourage businesses to use the space outside their storefront to host performers. Second by Lara. Unanimous agreement.
 - Sarah encourages street performers to reach out to businesses to work together and to create an agreement amongst themselves
- Doreen Kraft of the BCA shares that the BCA is thinking of small groups of artists and entertainers to have on the street and offers their services to help as a resource
 - Doreen also shares that summer concerts will be returning

CART VENDING PROGRAM:

- Sarah asks to have cart vendors on the side streets during Open Streets
- Kara shares city programs in works to help cart vendors find other locations
- Lorre asks what the concern of cart vending really is and shares she would love to have cart vendors back
- Lara shares there is a lack of traffic on the street and businesses are seriously struggling and that we need to get people to support the downtown and that the commission needs to help
- Kara shares she can convene the licensing committee to begin the cart vending process
- Mark shares that more needs to be happening on the street to bring people out
- Sarah makes a motion for Kara to convene the licensing committee and begin the program, second by Linda, unanimous agreement
- Kara shares she will have the licensing committee review the program (including fees) and make a recommendation to the commission

MURAL:

- Jeff shares that if the mural is removed, an immediate replacement mural is necessary rather than leaving a wall for graffiti
- Linda asks how we are contributing
 - Jeff shares that the commission will be part of future discussion
- Doreen shares the BCA is working on the process of removing the mural and that she understands the concern of a blank wall and reminds the commission of the size and cost that a new mural would cost the City

POLICE PRESENCE DOWNTOWN:

- Jeff shares that the commission needs to work with the city to keep the street clean and friendly and reminds the commission of recent vandalism and theft
- Lara shares we need more policing on the street
- Sarah shares that many police calls are for issues that the police cannot solve and that task forces should be created to tackle the real issues at hand and work in tandem with the police, rather than just adding officers to the street

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Linda recommends every two weeks
 - Sarah agrees
- Sarah recommends every two weeks but set time
- Kara shares she will host the next meeting in 2 weeks from 4 – 5:30

ADJOURN