



CSMC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

9:03 Chairman Nick calls the meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Jeff Nick, Buddy Singh, Mark Bouchette, Lorre Tucker, Erik Monsen (Zoom, leaves early), Sarah Beal (phone), Cara Tobin (10:20 arrival)

Missing: Linda Magoon, Becky Holt

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Julia Chalmers – Marketing Coordinator, Samantha McGinnis – Project and Event Manager, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant, Jed Sass - CSM coordinator

From DPW: Laura Wheelock and Olivia Darisse

Members of the public: Colin Hilliard, Brendan Hogan, Chris Haseley, unidentified individual

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve: Buddy, Second: Mark. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve: Erik, Second: Lorre. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- Brendan Hogan from the public works commission introduces himself.
- Chris Haseley, a resident of Burlington's downtown core, and part of an independent mapping group, talks about redistricting. He introduces the idea of the Downtown having its own ward and shares some mapping concepts.

DPW PRESENTATION:

- Laura Wheelock and Oliva Darisse share a presentation about the Main Street project. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57841928cd0f68f8a7381825/t/626ad5488b2e2c4392fdc946/1651168589369/Concept+Plans+for+4-28-2022+meeting+-+REDUCED.pdf>
- The new plans are in response to public comments regarding a lack of art, parking space reduction, water, bike lanes, public seating, etc.
- Two different concepts are introduced: Artful Gateways and Lake, City, Mountain. The details of each plan can be found on the Great Streets BTV website using the link above.
- There will be a vote on Monday to approve the 40' narrowing of the street.
- Following the presentation, there is discussion about lighting for the safety of pedestrians as well as cars, pay-as-you-go power, traffic flow, the importance of having enough parking, the cost of maintenance, and the possible return of the Farmer's Market.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Buddy reports that we are at 88% of the fiscal year, and the budget looks good.
- Kara and her transformed department project a surplus.
- Upcoming events will bring in revenue, which can hopefully be rolled into capital improvements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Kara expresses discusses warm weather uptick in graffiti. Temporary workers, paid for by the City, will start cleaning it up soon.
- Discussion follows about how to prevent graffiti and how CSOs will help.
- Kara explains that the maintenance crew was all out with Covid, but they are now back with 1 new member (Richard).
- Maintenance will be power washing the street soon
- Cart vendors, sidewalk cafes and retail tents are on the street, and street entertainer permits are being approved.
- Kara shows the orange stickers that cart vendors and entertainers must have on display.
- Julia explains that the new website is almost complete, and she discusses the Church Street branded merchandise that is being created and will be sold at gift shops.
- Kara conveys that Earth Day celebration in April was a success
- She reminds commissioners of the upcoming summer events, including the marathon, Discover Jazz Festival, Running with the Bulls, and Wednesday night concerts.
- Kara explains that she is on a committee to figure out how to manage cannabis businesses, which will be coming in October.

DOWNTOWN SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE (DIRECTOR):

- Kara shares that there will soon be a press conference with the Mayor and Chief Murad about deployment to downtown.
- Kara explains the role and capacity of the CSOs. Although they are unarmed, they can respond and reach out to dispatch, write tickets, and they make excellent witnesses.
- Discussion follows about the depleted police force, the role of CSOs, and how they are making a difference.

SHELTER POD COMMUNITY – CONCERN REGARDING OFF-SITE BEHAVIOR:

- Kara reports that there is no update on timeline and permitting
- It will not open until they find a full time operator.
- Discussion ensues about popup communities and concerns about the pod community location.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- Chairman Nick tells of his visit to Chicago, where he walked all over the city and saw no graffiti and no camping homeless people.
- He was told that they just don't allow it, so he wonders why we do.
- Mark says, "People do what is allowed."

MEETING ADJOURNED