

CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE DISTRICT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2023
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Mark Bouchett, Erik Monsen, Sarah Beal, Becky Holt, Linda Magoon, Sam Tolstoj, Chris Haessly, Cara Tobin (Zoom), Romeo von Hermann

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant

Members of the public: Marc Sherman, owner of Outdoor Gear Exchange, Colin Hilliard from the Burlington Business Association

COME TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve: Chris. Second: Romeo. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve: Chris. Second: Romeo. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC FORUM – GENERAL

- Marc Sherman, owner of Outdoor Gear Exchange speaks.
- He points out that we are at risk of losing our businesses if things in downtown Burlington do not change soon.
- He explains that since opening his Essex store, he keeps hearing how happy customers are to not have to go downtown anymore.
- He suggests that we need to clean up the city, encourage people to come downtown, and provide business owners financial subsidies to stay.

PUBLIC SAFETY RESOLUTION

a PUBLIC FORUM ON ITEM

b VOTE NEEDED

- Kara displays the resolution that was written by the commission.
- Extended discussion ensues about adjustments that should be made.
- Kara makes the suggested changes to the resolution.
- Motion to adopt resolution: Linda. Second: Erik. Unanimous approval.

PRESENTATION FROM STAFF (IDENTICAL TO CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION HELD 11/6/23)

a DISCUSSION ONLY

- Kara shares the presentation on the economic health of Burlington which was in the agenda packet.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL ON
11/6/23

a DISCUSSION AND SOLICITATION OF IDEAS

- Kara shares the memo (also in agenda packet) which explains the allocation of \$100,000 to be used to support public safety initiatives and economic activity downtown.
- She explains that City Council requested input from CSMC
- Due to time constraints, Commissioners agree to provide individual feedback to Kara via email

*Because time is running out, and Sam has to leave, Commission agrees to move the treasurer's report earlier in the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sam explains that we are 36% through this fiscal year and that we are slightly under budget overall.
- He notes that with the holiday season upon us, this will likely change soon.

DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

a PUBLIC FORUM

b VOTE NEEDED

Motion to cancel December CSMC meeting: Becky. Second: Romeo. Unanimous approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Kara provides brief rundown of the team's activities to prepare for the holidays and the tree lighting
- Kara reminds the commission that she needs feedback ASAP about how they recommend that the \$50,000 donation + \$50,000 ARPA funds should be used to best support economic activity downtown.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- He restates Marc Sherman's point that in order to get the street back to the way it was, there will have to be enforcement, and people will not like this.
- He points out that the Marketplace Department is doing exceptional things for the street and the public.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED 11:10am