



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 15, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Mark Bouchett, Erik Monsen, Becky Holt, Linda Magoon, Chris Haessly, Sarah Beal, Buddy Singh

Absent: Sam Tolstoi, Cara Tobin

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Jahna Belz – Marketing Specialist, Stephanie Shoheit – Administrative Assistant, Jed Sass - CSM coordinator, Andrew Bacher - Project and Event Coordinator, Johanna Schneider

Members of the public:

None

APPROVAL TO AMEND AGENDA

Motion: Buddy. Second: Linda. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Buddy. Second: Linda. Unanimous approval.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: Buddy. Second: Linda. Unanimous approval.

REVIEW OF TIMOTHY MICHELL STREET ENTERTAINER PERMIT

- DISCUSSION

- Timothy Michell explains why he thinks his license should be renewed.
 - States he is surprised by complaints
 - His show is family friendly and has built in pauses for audience to confirm consent.
 - Claims his permit was on display with his Venmo.
 - Expresses willingness to make changes to his show.
- Sarah expresses that show needs to be edited in terms of its jokes, and adding more pauses for consent.
- Mark mentions renewing license with caution, asking Timothy to edit jokes and de-escalate all tense situations during his show.
- Linda also expresses jokes need to be edited and sensitivity to the public should be the utmost priority.
- Buddy asks for a small phrase to be added to the show that continuously asks for audiences' consent.
- Commission wants to be updated all complaints in the future.

Motion to Renew License: Buddy. Second: Chris. Unanimous approval.

BUDGET – MARKETPLACE FEES

- PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CERTAIN FEES (EXCLUDING COMMON AREA FEES)

- Kara explains commission can decide to vote on the budget as a slate or individually. Kara goes through proposed fee changes and explains them in context with the budget from 2022.
- Buddy thinks banner program prices could be increased even further.
- Linda states she's comfortable with the proposed banner increase and does not think an additional increase is necessary.
- Commission decides to vote on a slate.

- VOTE

Motion to Accept New Fees as a Slate: Linda. Second: Becky. Unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- We are 62% through the fiscal year and budget looks good
- Kara shares she wants to have a shared part-time position with BPRW to address Park and Marketplace and is looking into the possibility
- Buddy and Kara explain the inconsistencies with the surplus from the 2022 audit
- Buddy and Kara explain that they will need to meet with the Treasurer's Office to sort out the inconsistencies.
- Any future updates regarding inconsistency will be reported to the commission.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Construction on the Marketplace garage has begun. Working to get more signage for the public.
- Kara has arranged a town hall meeting with the mayor and all Burlington businesses.
- Erik made the connection for our department to have access to micro-internships from UVM.
- Cart Vendor Application went live and will close at the end of March.
- Elmwood Avenue Pod Shelter is up and running without full capacity. They will be slowly increasing capacity as time goes on.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Mark plans to send out a letter about fee increases to merchants, so businesses can have a discussion.

PRESENT RESPONSE TO MARKETPLACE HOLIDAY SURVEY

- STAFF PRESENTATION

- Kara goes over Holiday survey sent to merchants on Church Street. Overall, most businesses were satisfied with the holiday programming.
- Survey had around a 50% response rate, which is consistent or better than previous years.
- Commission wants to encourage merchants on top block to participate in Window Decorating contest next year to help with traffic.
- DPW wants to do a wrap-up presentation for the Commission on holiday parking promotion.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED