



CSMC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 18th, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Becky Holt (via zoom), Linda Magoon, Jeff Nick, Lorre Tucker, Erik Monsen, Jed Davis (via zoom), Buddy Singh, and Mark Bouchette

Members of the Public: Colin Hillard (BBA)

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi - Executive Director, Julia Chalmers - Marketing Coordinator, Samantha McGinnis – Project and Event Manager

INTRODUCTIONS:

At 9:05am Jeff Nick called the meeting to order

- Approval of agenda.
 - Jeff Nick motions to add BBA comments under the engagement of City Council. Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 21, 2021

- Jeff Nick moved to adopt the minutes of the July 21st, 2021 meeting.
- Motion: Linda, Second: Mark. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

- No speakers

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Kara shares that Buddy and she are working on wrapping up the budget and are on track to wrap up FY21
- An unexpected cost has occurred – 5 street bollards have been stolen and cost \$1,600 each.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

- September is the 40th anniversary of the Marketplace
 - The Taste of Church Street event celebrating restaurants and benefitting Howard Street outreach team has been canceled as restaurants do not have the capacity to host.
 - The team is planning to postpone the event until February
- Festival of Fools was successful and the addition of the park stage relieved much of the traffic
- Sidewalk Sale was successful
 - Mark shares Homeport met their 2019 numbers and felt it went well
- Boat display on the street was successful
- 3 new positions have been added to the department
 - Marketplace Coordinator
 - Administrative assistance and outreach
 - City Hall Park maintenance
 - This position will be funded by Parks and Rec

- Kara shares the Mayor is not currently contemplating a new COVID mandate but encourages responsible decisions when indoor in public spaces
 - Jed shares restaurants are starting to hear some customers no longer feel comfortable sitting inside
 - Kara is working on reinstating grab and go spots and parklets
- Jed questions the management of reimbursements with the City
 - Kara shares that the department has become more involved with the City and sees the current work as a pilot project as the Marketplace moves towards expanding the district
- Lorre shares she thinks the new park employee is great and shares that there is an increase in people sitting on the street and she had a woman scream at her
 - Discussion ensues about behavior on the street and the possible role of maintenance staff
 - Kara shares that she has made it clear to her staff that it is not their job to act as police officers and she will not request they extend hours to do so. Kara is meeting with the police chief tomorrow to discuss more.
 - Buddy states he is adamantly against asking unqualified staff to police the street

CSM COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT WITH CITY COUNCIL

- Kara explains the role of Chocolate Thunder Security. They are currently hired for the park, City Hall, the Library, and City-run events
 - Jeff Nick requests Chocolate Thunder Security is hired for the Marketplace
 - Mark agrees with Jeff Nick and requests the Marketplace pursues security
- Collin Hillard of the BBA updates the commission on City Council's decision to not raise the cap for policing despite the recommendation from the police commission and Howard Center Street Outreach Team.
 - Colin shares the council is willing to revisit the issue after the consultants' report next month
 - Discussion ensues over the gravity of the situation
- Jeff Nick suggests the commission continues to shine a light on the situation to City Council
- Erik suggests there may be an opportunity to partner with UVM and BHS to approach the City Council from the lens of protecting students who live and work downtown
- Jeff suggests the commission is added to the City Council agenda
- Kara reminds the commission that they are welcome to invite the City Council to meetings

DELTA VARIANT AND WINTER SEASON

- Kara recaps the efforts the City is taking to prepare for the potential rise in COVID
 - Grab and go spots
 - Recommended masks (not required)
 - Parklets

CHAIRS REPORT:

- Jeff shares he was on TJ Donovan radio show discussing radio theft
- Jeff reached out to Phil Beruth to discuss changes to retail theft laws and requests he joins the commission to discuss
- Next meeting the commission will be voting for positions.
- Discussion ensues over the high school's potential new locations.
- Motion to adjourn: Jeff Nick, Second: Buddy. Unanimous approval.

ADJOURN