



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 15, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant, Samantha McGinnis - Project & Event Manager, Andrew Bacher – Church Street Marketplace Coordinator, Jessica Dudley - Marketing Manager, Aida Washburn - Project & Events Specialist

Members of the public:

Jackie Esperti, Jeff Nick, Kelly Devine, Chapin Spencer, Joe Turner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Erik points out that the next meeting is scheduled on Juneteenth, so the commission discusses alternative dates.
- Erik makes the motion to change the next meeting date to June 12. Sam seconds, and approval is unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Erik makes the motion to approve. Sam seconds, and approval is unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM – GENERAL

- Jeff Nick brings up downtown safety and the fact that city laws and ordinances are not being enforced.
- He mentions public drug use, retail theft, and the fact that people are blocking the 9' right of way in front of businesses.
- Chris speaks as a member of the public. He reports that when asking about the egress ordinance, he learned that officers were told not to enforce it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sam reports that we are at 89% of FY24, and we are doing great.
- Revenue is at 93%, and expenses are right on target.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FEES

a. PUBLIC FORUM

- Kelly Devine, Executive Director of the Burlington Business Association, expresses that rather than spending DID money on a holiday parking program, we should use it to support public safety.

- Since all taxes are going up, she urges commission to not raise DID fees as well.
- b. PRESENTATION: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
- Chapin Spencer explains that parking programs are funded with DID fees (2 hrs free, holiday promo, employee parking, etc).
 - Jackie Esperti explains the options for this year since there is not going to be as much money available due to a larger percentage being transferred to TIF.
 - According to the City charter, DID must pay for parking programs including two hours of free parking.
 - Discussion follows about how to cut parking programs without hurting merchants or employees.
 - Commission agrees that keeping the free employee parking program is more valuable than holiday parking discounts.
- c. VOTE EXPECTED
- Sarah makes the motion to keep the DID rate the same. Linda seconds, and agreement is unanimous.

OUTDOOR GEAR EXCHANGE – REQUEST FOR LARGER TENT ON SPECIFIC DAYS

- a. PUBLIC FORUM
- None
- b. VOTE EXPECTED
- Kara explains that OGE has requested a larger retail tent for specific dates this season. Marketplace staff recommends approval. Linda makes the motion to approve. Sarah seconds, and approval is unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Kara describes the success of recent events on the Marketplace including Earth Day, Mother's Day Build-a-Bouquet and gift basket giveaway.
- She tells of upcoming events: the marathon, Jazz Festival, and Juneteenth and shares that very soon there will be officers dedicated to patrolling Church Street.
- She explains that the FY25 City budget is still time-consuming, and the new mayor is getting up to speed and meeting with City departments.
- Kara gives an overview of new businesses opening soon on Church Street, including Nomad, Insomnia Cookies, a Turkish spice shop, and a new pizza establishment, as well as other changes to businesses on and near the Marketplace.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Mark expresses that retail theft is increasing. He has hired security for the door of his business and spends lots of time chasing people.
- Discussion follows about the impacts of national stores unwilling to seek prosecution
- Cara explains that theft is happening in her restaurant as well.

- Discussion follows about how ordinances such as bike riding on the bricks are not being enforced and the idea that more signage is needed.
- More discussion ensues about lack of prosecution for retail theft, advocating at the state level, and the idea that retailers might want to meet and share ideas about how they deal with it.

Regular meeting is adjourned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUE