



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 12, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

Missing: Cara Tobin

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

Members of the public: Laura Wheelock and Julia Ursaki, both from DPW

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Romeo makes the motion to approve, Linda seconds, and approval is unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC FORUM – GENERAL

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sam reports that we are more than 90% through the fiscal year, everything is running under budget or right on, and it appears we will finish the year well.

RECONNECTING BANK & CHERRY

a. PRESENTATION: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- Laura Wheelock and Julia Ursaki give their presentation about DPW's project reconnecting Bank and Cherry Streets (see meeting attachments).
- Many questions and discussion follows about pedestrian plazas, amenity zones, space for trucks and buses to turn, bicycle routes, public restrooms, snow removal, a possible public safety kiosk, handicap parking, and regular parking spots.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Kara updates about the events on the Marketplace since the last meeting - the marathon and Jazzfest both went well.

- She explains the upcoming Juneteenth celebration and the 'Summer on the Marketplace' activities that are being planned.
- Kara reports that the virtual town hall with Burlington business owners and the mayor went well and was attended by about 150 business owners.
- She explains that she has been reappointed by the mayor for another year.
- She reports that since CAM fees will not be going up, we have a robust fundraising goal for FY25.
- Kara explains that due to criminal activity, two towers in the Marketplace Garage have been closed for a "cooling off period"
- She shares the Seven Days center spread advertorial, paid for by a State of Vermont grant that the team received
- She updates commission about the progress of the brick work and the kiosk coming soon to City Hall Park.
- Discussion follows about community safety and the mayor's new safety committee
 - Commissioners wish to know how the group was chosen
 - Commissioners ask what the committee's tasks and goals are
 - Kara refers Commissioners to the Mayor's office
- Kara reports on new businesses opening in the downtown.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Mark reports that sales at Homeport are tracking about even with last year, but with fewer customers.
- Theft is rampant, and he has added security, but it is expensive.
- Parking garage challenges are serious, but police are focused on it.
- He believes that we have lost our older customers.
- Discussion follows about how Main Street construction is difficult for those businesses.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED