



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant, Andrew Bacher - Church Street Marketplace Coordinator, Jessica Dudley - Marketing Manager

Public:

Phillip Peterson (Senior Transportation Planner for DPW), Evan Litwin (City Councilor), Ben Traverse (City Council President), and Melo Grant (City Councilor), Erin Jacobson (Mayor's chief of staff), Nicole (owner of Golden Hour), several others via Zoom

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Motion to approve: Romeo. Second: Chris. Approval is unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve: Chris. Second: Sam. Approval is unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM – GENERAL

- Burlington City Councilor Melo Grant addresses Commission.
- She is looking for help in creating a contact list for business owners in order to keep in touch via a newsletter.
- She is concerned with how the data looks if merchants are not reporting incidents because they believe their reports will get no response.
- Nicole from Golden Hour asks if there is a way to trespass people from the Marketplace in general instead of just from a specific business.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sam reports that we are 20% through FY25, and we have received about half of our expected revenue.
- Our expenses are running at about 16%, with the exception of maintenance.
- Kara explains how the expenses related to the brick improvement project affect that number.

REDUCING SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN

a. PRESENTATION: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- Phillip Peterson, Senior Transportation Planner for DPW, presents to commission on a few projects that are in the works including PlanBTV Walk Bike Action Plan, downtown speed limit reduction, tactical traffic calming installations, and the Old North End Greenway construction.
- Discussion follows about how reducing the downtown speed limit to 20 mph will make a difference to the safety of pedestrians as well as to the downtown economy.
- Other problem areas in regard to traffic in the City are discussed, and commission expresses frustration at not seeing this presentation until the day before the vote.
- Commissioners ask why money is being spent on this project vs. others

DOWNTOWN OF PUBLIC SAFETY HUB

a. COUNCILORS TRAVERSE AND LITWIN

- Councilor Litwin speaks to Commission about the public safety hub resolution that he and other Councilors have been working on which include many aspects of public safety including sworn officers, Howard Center staff, CSOs and CSLs, and the ambassador program.
- Individuals who provide these services need a place/hub downtown in order to be visible, to warm up, make phone calls, etc.
- Discussion ensues about the idea of a mobile kiosk, vigilantism, lack of reporting, and listing jobs correctly in order to recruit officers.
- Chief of Staff Erin Jacobsen explains that although the mayor's office does not agree with all of the items in the resolution, they do agree with initiatives that support community safety
- Mayor's office indicates that resources are limited, staff capacity (Director Alnasrawi, Special Advisor Jonas) is limited, and there are other needs that they would like to see prioritized, such as staffing the front desk of BPD
- Discussion follows about the need for immediate and visible action, combining services in a downtown hub, the need for lighting on the street to the Downtown Garage, and how to best deal with the mental health issue.
- Chris makes a motion *"to endorse the exploration of a public safety kiosk to be located on or near the Church Street Marketplace in Downtown Burlington for the purpose of addressing the public safety needs in the city of Burlington"*.
- Romeo seconds. All are in agreement with the exception of Sam Tolstoi. Motion passes.

STAFF REPORT

a. REVIEW OF EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

- Kara recaps Summer on the Marketplace events, activities, and marketing
- She details the upcoming events, including UVM Weekend celebration, the Outright Vermont fire truck pull, and Howl'ween, and she assures commission that holiday planning is already well underway.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Kara informs commission that Xfinity has cut their holiday sponsorship in half.
- She gives an update on the brickwork.
- She tells about the upcoming Community Safety Forum that she will attend as well as the weekly hotspot meetings that she has been facilitating.
- Kara updates commission about the success of the sheriff's presence in the Marketplace Garage, the hiring of the new City Attorney, and the sale of Leunig's restaurant and kiosk.
- She names the new businesses on the street (The Store, Little Istanbul, and Phoenix Books) as well as the reopening of Gaku Ramen and the upcoming opening of Weeners and Nomad Coffee.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Mark suggests that commissioners come up with ideas for things they would like to discuss with the mayor since she will attend the next meeting.

Meeting is adjourned at 11am