



Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: Romeo von Hermann

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant, Jed Sass - Church Street Marketplace Coordinator, Samantha McGinnis - Project & Event Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve: Chris. Second: Becky. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve: Chris. Second: Becky. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC FORUM – GENERAL

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Kara reports that Jessica Dudley has joined the team as marketing manager, and Romeo von Hermann is the new member of the commission.
- Sponsors for the holiday events are all lined up, but we are still looking for a tree.
- DPW will attend next month's meeting to report on the Main Street project.
- Staff has been activating Church Street with events paid for by the Pomerleau Foundation & Northfield Savings Bank.
- Kara explains that she spends the majority of her time discussing safety & security with business owners, police, etc.
- The way our office can attack the problem of homeless, drug addicted, and mentally ill people on the street is with marketing and activations such as our Marketplace Summer and holiday activities.
- Discussion ensues about other ideas to help combat the problem.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Marc expresses that Kara is forced to spend way too much of her time dealing with safety & security issues.
- He encourages commission to think about what to say formally as a group, and agrees that their best tool is activation of the street.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Sam explains that he has met with Kara to discuss his new role.
- We are 21% through the year, and we are slightly under budget in all 3 categories.

STAFF UPDATE ON SUMMER EVENTS

a DISCUSSION ONLY

- Samantha reports on our summer activities and upcoming events on the Marketplace.
- Discussion follows about how much better the street looks when it is full of people having fun, dancing, etc.

ADVERTISING RULES – NON-PROFIT VS. FOR-PROFIT

a PUBLIC FORUM FOR ITEM

b VOTE NEEDED

- Kara reviews the proposed advertising rules for the Marketplace. We want advertising to support the public.
- Discussion follows about event sponsors and whether cannabis businesses should be included. Kara will reach out to the city attorney about this.
- Chris makes the motion to table the vote until next month. Linda seconds, and agreement is unanimous.

INVITING GUEST SPEAKERS – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

a DISCUSSION ONLY

- Mark expresses that it is a good idea to invite people to this meeting, but we should discuss ahead of time what our message will be.
- Commissioners brainstorm about possible guests.

10:45 am: Linda makes the motion to go into executive session. Second: Becky. Unanimous approval.