



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

CSMC Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Becky Holt, Linda Magoon, Jeff Nick, Lorre Tucker, Erik Monsen, Jed Davis, Sarah Beal, Buddy Singh, and Mark Bouchette

Members of the Public: via Zoom

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

Guest: Mayor Miro Weinberger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 21st, 2021

- Motion: Linda, Second: Buddy. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- Melissa D. owner of Whim and Dear Lucy – shares regular occurrences of fighting and unsafe behavior, graffiti, shoplifting and vandalism and the lack of support from the police. Melissa also shares that her female staff feels unsafe and is regularly harassed and is deeply concerned for the safety of the young women working downtown.
- Jeff speaks on behalf of Meg McGovern - shares that the Whiskey Room windows were smashed in and liquor was stolen from the bar and requests that the police budget be raised to better protect the community.

MAYOR ADDRESSES COMMISSION

- Mayor Miro Weinberger responds to the public forum concerns and shares that the increase in crime and decrease of support is a direct result of the City Council's decision to decrease the police budget despite his objections. The Mayor shares it will take time to recover from the immediate and uncoordinated decrease in the budget but the City has taken action to create 10 un-armed community safety positions and greatly increase the mental health and community services in the City.
- Mayor Weinberger discusses his decision to appoint Kara as the lead on the economic recovery of the City for the next year, and the necessity to remain nimble as the City navigates the aftermath of COVID-19. Mayor Weinberger highlights the increased benefits the merchants have received as a result.
 - Jeff questions the lack of advocacy the Marketplace has as an individual entity despite being funded solely by individual fee payers.
 - The Mayor shares that the goal is to continue fully supporting the Marketplace with additional staff and would like to plan for and move on the expansion of the designated downtown district this year.
 - Jed asks about the Mayor's plan for Kara's position in the future
 - Mayor shares that the current FY22 plan to have Kara's team split between both the City and the Marketplace is a one-year plan, that will be revisited
- Mayor Weinberger leaves.

- Commission discusses the conversation with the Mayor and next steps to move the Marketplace forward.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

- Leapfrog statue fell after years of presence on the street and is being repaired now
- The Mother's Day giveaway took place earlier this month
- Samantha and Julia are working on a brand activation deck to increase revenue for the Marketplace
- Despite the success of the new job page, hiring is still an issue for all businesses
- The graffiti removal project is moving forward but facing some delays with hiring
- Jazz Fest shared their plan for the festival
- The Food Network will be filming on the Marketplace end of May
- The police department is still available for staff escorts as they have availability
- A pop up vaccine clinic will be on the Marketplace Saturday May 22
- The team is aware of and working on rouge street entertainers popping up with amplified sound and percussions
- Kara will give the budget presentation to the Board of Finance today

DID FEES FY22

- Kelly Devine and Jeff Padgett join to discuss the recent commission vote to cut the DID fees and share that the vote may be in violation of the parking ordinance.
- Commission discusses the effects of the vote and the value of 2-hour free parking.
- Commission moves forward with April vote to decrease DID fees.
- Kara will pass the vote to the council and pending council approval will work with Kelly and Jeff on a solution to a lower budget.

DOWNTOWN SAFETY

- Kara shares an update on safety survey feedback
- Commission moves discussion to June meeting in the interest of time

CHAIRS REPORT:

- Eddie Bauer space will have a new tenant
- Jeff shares that the City and Council need to align their thinking on when graffiti is vandalism vs public art
- Jeff requests Kara to move forward with discussing the expanded DID plan with the Mayor

ADJOURN