



Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: Erik Monsen

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Samantha McGinnis – Projects and Events Manager, Stephanie Shohet - Administrative Assistant

Members of the public: Claudia Shapiro, property manager, Kelly Devine, Burlington Business Association

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC FORUM - GENERAL

- Claudia Shapiro, property manager for the apartments above Honey Road restaurant at 174 Main Street, explains that the apartments are un-rentable due to a transient population constantly blocking the entrance and harassing tenants
- Police do not respond to complaints about this.
- There used to be police barricades, and she requests that something be placed there again to prevent loitering.

APPROVAL OF CRITERIUM BIKE RACE

a. PUBLIC FORUM FOR ITEM

b. VOTE NEEDED

Linda makes a motion to approve. Buddy seconds. Unanimous approval.

DPW – JEFF PADGETT, DIVISION DIRECTOR – PARKING & TRAFFIC

a. UPDATE/OVERVIEW ON PARKING AND GARAGE WORK

b. INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

- Jeff explains how Covid affected parking revenue on the street and in the garages, and how it is slowly recovering.
- He explains that DID tax covers things such as free and discounted parking deals as well as free employee parking.
- He informs the Commission that on-street revenue pays for such things as lights, signs, and crossing guards.
- Discussion follows about the Park Mobile App, how BHS affects occupancy in the Downtown Garage, the need for closer parking for late-night employees, and the current status of the garages.

Kelly Devine arrives 10 am, and public forum is allowed to continue as per the Chair

- Kelly expounds on the situation described by Claudia earlier.

- She requests consistent presence by CSMC at City Council meetings and Public Safety meetings to raise awareness of the problem of street people loitering, harassing, and publicly using drugs.

AUGUST MEETING – DATE CHANGE

a. PUBLIC FORUM FOR ITEM

b. VOTE NEEDED

- Kara has a conflict on August 16 and requests a date change. Discussion ensues. Commissioners share that historically the Commission has canceled August. Linda moves to cancel. Becky seconds. Unanimous approval.

TREASURER’S REPORT

- Kara reports that because of IT issues, we have been unable to get a budget performance report for Buddy. If we get it and send it to him, he will notify CSMC of any problems.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Kara gives an update on staffing. She explains that we have not found a replacement for Julia yet, but Alex Beer’s replacement in City Hall Park will start next week, and a Sunday floater for Marketplace maintenance has also been hired.
- She reports about successful recent events such as the marathon, the start of the BTV Market in City Hall Park, Jazzfest, and Juneteenth.
- Kara tells of the generous \$55,000 donation from the Pomerleau Foundation and Samantha details the Marketplace Summer activations that will be covered by this money.
- Kara updates the Commission about the removal and replacement of some trees on the Marketplace.
- Discussion follows about how the use of salt damages some of the trees and whether some should be replaced even if they do not live as long as they would otherwise.
- Kara reports about the mall project which is not projected to physically impact the Marketplace for at least a year.
- She tells of presenting her FY24 budget to Board of Finance
- Explains that the Marketplace merchandise program has launched and that bags, tea towels, and postcards are in stores now.
- At the next meeting, the Commission will vote on officers.

CHAIR’S REPORT

- This is Buddy’s final CSMC meeting as a commissioner, and Mark thanks him for his many years of service.
- Mark reports that although foot traffic at Homeport is not yet at the 2019 level, it is creeping up, and we need to continue to manage the perception of downtown.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED