



CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

Church Street Marketplace District Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 21, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Mark Bouchett, Buddy Singh, Erik Monsen, Becky Holt, Linda Magoon, Chris Haessly, Cara Tobin, Sarah Beal

Missing - Sam Tolstoi

Staff: Kara Alnasrawi – Executive Director, Julia Chalmers – Marketing Coordinator, Stephanie Shohet – Administrative Assistant, Jed Sass - CSM coordinator, Samantha McGinnis - Project and Event Manager, Jahna Belz - Marketing Assistant

Members of the public:

Colin Hilliard, Burlington Business Association, Jeremy Hulse, manager of Ben & Jerry's

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve agenda: Becky Holt. Second: Buddy Singh. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes: Linda Magoon. Second: Erik Monsen. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Jeremy Hulse, manager of Ben & Jerry's, points out that the uneven bricks in his cafe space create a trip hazard.
- Jeremy also points out that they have decided to close their bathrooms to the public because they are not able to control substance use and related waste left behind in addition to aggressive behavior with staff.
- They have created a card (attached) to explain this to customers.

HALLOWEEN BIKE PARADE ON MARKETPLACE

VOTE NEEDED FOR TEMPORARY ORDINANCE WAIVER:

- Kara explains the Halloween bike parade through the Marketplace that happens every year, and is planned for Sunday, 10/30.
- Sarah asks if anyone has ever complained, and Kara indicates that no one has.
- Motion to temporarily waive the ordinance for this event: Buddy Singh. Second: Chris Haessly. Unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Buddy reports that we are 22% through the fiscal year, and things are looking good.
- We were left with a \$120,000 surplus from FY '22, mostly because of unfilled positions.
- Discussion follows about needed capital improvements and new Marketplace staff.

- Kara introduces Jahna Belz, temporary marketing assistant.

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE UPDATE (DIRECTOR):

- Kara explains that since joining the team in 2019, her role has expanded, and staff mostly have split salaries (CSM & BWD).
- She has been in front of City Council and the Board of Finance, has requested more money from the General Fund, and has been working with the Treasurer's office in order to reorganize and expand the Department of Business & Workforce Development, which includes the Church Street Marketplace.
- In the future, this department may be supported by an expanded Downtown Improvement District in order to alleviate fees on the Marketplace.
- In this case, the CSMC may be asked to oversee the broader work of the Department of BWD.
- Kara describes the 4 new positions that will soon be posted.
- Discussion ensues about future funding of these positions, the future role of the commission, and the time frame for this reorganization.
- Commission indicates support for the expanded role and an expanded department and asks if Kara needs any support

Chris leaves 9:52

REVIEW OF POLICE PRESENTATION (BPD IS NOT IN ATTENDANCE): INFORMATIONAL ONLY

- Kara explains that Chief Murad will be the permanent acting chief while there are still no other applicants.
- BPD is hiring for a new position that will be responsible for recruitment and marketing.
- Kara reviews the roles of CSOs and CSLs.
- Discussion follows about how to hold offenders accountable.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Kara briefs the commission on the mayor's recent Zoom meeting with 100+ business owners.
- She tells of her Downtown retreat with the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development.
- Kara gives an update on recent and upcoming events and holiday preparations.
- She updates the commission on the cannabis businesses that will open in October.
- Discussion follows about the holidays and the upcoming parking garage construction.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- Chairman Bouchett expounds on the smaller meeting he attended between the mayor and Burlington business owners.
- Discussion continues about how to deal with safety and security issues.
- Kara shares BBA fall 2022 proposed public safety projects (<https://www.bbavt.org/current-projects/public-safety-initiatives/>).
- Mark explains that Champlain Housing Trust has taken on management of the pod community which is now slated to open in November.
- Mark tells of his discussion with Chief Murad about why ordinances are not being enforced.
- Discussion ensues about the challenges of law enforcement in Burlington

MEETING IS ADJOURNED