

MINUTES

Longview Downtown Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

8:00 A.M.

1. Call to order

Chair Dawn Gregg called the meeting to order at 8 am.

- *In attendance, Dawn Gregg, Chair; Bill Hallanger; Pat Palmer; Allan Rudberg; Karl Salzsider; Susan Supola; Ruth Kendall.*
- *Not present: Brad Whittaker, Co-Chair; Katie Bonus; Christopher Reeves.*
- *Staff: Adam Trimble; Ken Hash; Mary Chennault; Nancy Vandehey.*
- *Audience: Ron Kosloski.*

2. Approval of April 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Pat Palmer, seconded by Allan Rudberg that the minutes be approved.

3. Announcements

None.

4. Audience Participation or Correspondence

Ron Kosloski stated that he's protesting the closing of Creekside Café. They were fined for mask violations. Bad news! Support letters can be sent to the County Health Division.

Allan Rudberg shared later that he believed they were closed for remodeling into the Father's House building.

5. Agenda Review and Action on Agenda items

None.

6. Reports and Sub-Committee Assignments

6.1 Parking Reports – LPD- staff Mary Chennault

Mary shared lot breakdown report. Not much has changed. Parking numbers are lower than normal due to staffing shortage; hoping those positions will be filled by June so the numbers should go back up. Discussion was had on the long term outcome as it is not self-supporting at this time. Changes need to be made to fix this long term. Support from council is needed for changes. The fund balance will be zero at the end of the year; you can't run a business with no funds.

6.2 City plans for downtown streetscape – Ken Hash

Downtown Streetscape Phase 3 (Hemlock to Florida) has support for federal funding by Herrera Beutler, Cantwell and Murray.

6.3 Downtown Parking Study – Ken Hash

Costs for a new study are much higher than Ken Hash expected. Dawn Gregg mentioned a report from Susan Supola that was done in Canada that could be used as an example. Ken Hash stated that we are 10 years beyond the Hyatt Palma study in

the recession that called for free parking downtown. We're out of that recession and maybe it's time for some changes to the free parking.

6.4 Planning Commission to allow mini-golf by Pie@Trios – Adam Trimble

Approval may come in June by Council.

6.5 Longview (Housing) Plan update: Housing Needs assessment draft released – Adam Trimble, link

<https://mylongview.box.com/s/ixx5oz3ycshjtxmo464s2pj1gr07iq0t>

Mud Bay Consulting was hired to update the plan. Adam Trimble shared the plan with the group. Next step – goal setting.

7. Old Business

7.1 Parking Ideas Discussion continued

Discussion including radical changes needed to the downtown parking. Previous study set 3 hr blocks, as hairdressers said 2 hrs wasn't enough. A suggestion was tossed out to have no parking enforcement and it all be free. Another suggestion was a stern letter from City to landlords to inform tenants to not park on the street and use parking lots. Mary Chennault clarified the law of on street parking is a timed spot for anyone and cannot exclude tenants. A newsletter was discussed to encourage out of town landlords to encourage tenants to use parking lots over on street parking.

8. New Business

8.1 Making Downtown a Destination

Ideas tossed out – pocket park; courtyard plaza; utilizing the green strip of Broadway; blocking off one block for pedestrian use only with tables and benches to eating and meeting; connecting to Lake Sacajawea via walkable/bike able path/trail. Businesses need to be part of the Downtowners group – be active and participate to build the community to be one voice. Ron Kosloski stated that parking is an issue for daytime businesses as after 5:30, it is no problem for businesses such as Antidote. A motion was made by Karl Salzsider, seconded by Bill Hallanger, to recommend a change from 3 hr parking to 2 hr parking from Columbia Theatre to Freddie's Just for the Halibut. All in favor. Adam Trimble will put on the next council agenda.

9. Discussion Items

9.1 Downtown Clean-up occurred May 15th, organized by Longview Downtowners – Lindsey Cope

Pat Palmer shared that about 25 people showed up to help. (Downtowners, Mayor, RA Long Baseball players, church group) Several bags of garbage was collected. The City provided dump boxes. New beauty bark was added on 12th and Elks building.

10. Next Meeting – June 15, 2021

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 am.