

MINUTES
Longview Downtown Advisory
Committee Tuesday July 20, 2021
8:00 A.M.
Longview City Hall Council
Chambers Hybrid Meeting

1. Call to order

Chair Dawn Gregg called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

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

2. Election of officers – None, error on agenda

3. Approval of May 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Hallanger, seconded by Brad Whittaker, that the minutes be approved as presented.

4. Announcements

- Susan Supola resigned- moving back to Montana
- In-person meetings resume with ‘hybrid’ virtual attendance option. Un-vaccinated persons shall wear masks while in City Hall.

5. Audience Participation or Correspondence

Ron Kosloski thanked the City for the hybrid meeting option. He inquired about the status of the construction blocking the parking around the old Cianci building. He mentioned the Governor will try to shut businesses down again and asked for support for those businesses trying to stay open.

6. Agenda Review and Action on Agenda Items

7. Reports and Sub-Committee Assignments

7.1 Parking Reports – LPD

Mary shared reports. Dawn inquired about the hours of parking staff as cars are on the street all day – not moving. She can mark tires but can't get back down to ticket. Mary reiterated that the position is staffed for 50% for parking enforcement and that the Records Division should be fully staffed soon, and that should get her back out. Mary encouraged them to call Dispatch if they witness this and report it.

7.2 Washington Main Street program grant opportunity for Affiliate Members. Staff attended a grant workshop and learned that funds are available for affiliate

members to hire a full-time staff person and start the process of becoming full Main Street members. It is a capacity building grant, but the city cannot be the applicant, it must be an independent non-profit. Staff will share the information with the Downtowners and encourage them to apply for funding the next round in 2022.

A coach is vital for Downtown. There's a grant opportunity to hire an employee to build capacity to become a full member. This person can't be a City of Longview employee, as it needs to be from a non-profit. Adam found a grant opportunity that has passed for this year, but will hopefully be available again next year. Lindsey Cope would like to pursue it for next year for Downtowners or EDC. Pat Palmer will bring it up at the next Downtowners meeting on Thursday.

7.3 Revitalize WA (Mainstreet) conference 2 for 1 registration.

Between now and September will want to determine if any two people, or more, want to attend this conference for DAC or Downtowners to take advantage of this discount.

7.4 City landscaping efforts in parking lots in June.

Not discussed.

7.5 Parking study updates.

Ken has been in contact with 3 consultants, the last being the most promising for our scope and desire. Questions he's asking: What's the best way to manage parking lots in 2021? Do we set up mobile/phone station for parking meters? Do we bring in a management company like Blue Diamond? We need to determine what the downtown businesses want as well. There's no set timeline for the study but sooner rather than later is the desire. Brad pointed out that the fund will be out of money by the end of the year.

8. Old Business

DAC recommendation to City Council: City Manager asked to wait until a parking study is complete before proposing changes to parking rules.

The request to go from 3 hr to 2 hr parking and for leased parking to not be free is on hold until the study is completed. It was suggested that too many warnings are being issued.

9. New Business

City Council will hear a presentation from their hired consultant on Economic Development for Downtown on July 27th. Adam believes the focus is what is the economic benefits of additional housing units downtown. Is it beneficial to sell a parking lot? This will have a long term direct impact to parking downtown. Construction downtown has an impact already. People are parking all day. Brad pointed out that any residential lender downtown will require the builder to put in parking. Dawn inquired more on the construction permit for the Cianci building. Adam will inquire with Public Works.

10. Discussion Items –

10.1 Bend Oregon parking changes article. Some similarities to Longview and noted

that on-street parking went to 2-hrs, un-metered while all the public parking lots went to metered and long-term parking options available on a sliding scale/income basis.

Dawn thanked Adam for sharing the study from Mary on Bend parking. Mary will try to get a copy of the full study from the City of Bend, but their study will not match up with our community, so we can't really use it as they presented it. Bill wants to speed up the process and hold a workshop. Adam suggested a subcommittee of 3 to work on it and bring it back to the group but if that is done, do we have a direction? Pat, Brad and Bill created a subcommittee to canvas downtown asking for input from the businesses.

10.2 On-going discussion of parking fund balance decline.

The fund is out of business by December and then the burden lays with the City after that to fund it.

???New Business

11. Next Meeting – August 17 meeting cancelled or pick a date to reschedule. September 21.

Nancy will ask Ken to attend the meeting on 8/17 if there is information to share on the parking study. If not, it will be cancelled.

Adam provided the group information on group emails and transparency guidelines.

12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9 am.