

MINUTES

**Longview Downtown Advisory
Committee Tuesday September 21, 2021
8:00 A.M.
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

1. Call to order

Chair Dawn Gregg called the meeting to order.

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

2. Approval of July 2021 Minutes

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

3. Announcements

None.

4. Audience Participation or Correspondence

Lindsey Cope announced that they will not be hosting trick-or-treating downtown this year. It's too challenging with current restrictions. There will be a 12 Days of Christmas event. It is Tropical Saturday this weekend. The Downtowners received a grant to film a commercial and Lindsey is really excited with how it turned out. Ron Kosloski is seeing more vehicles in the raingardens and is unhappy with the lack of reflectors that are being put in to help deter people from driving into them. Ken Hash mentioned that a request had been made to him to add more downtown and it would be worked into the schedule as it allows. Allan Rudberg asked to make sure that the area around the Columbia Theatre/Sylvester Apartments be included when reflectors are added.

There was a discussion on the hanging flower baskets. There was a water leak that resulted in a water line being shut off to control the leak during our peak hot spell. Brad Whittaker's business, Realty One, has started an adopt-a-block the 1st Saturday of each month to clean up both sides of a certain block. He's hoping that the corporation will take it nationwide as well as hoping to see other local businesses adopting a day for clean-up.

5. Agenda Review and Action on Agenda Items

6. Reports and Sub-Committee Assignments

7.1 Parking Reports – LPD

Mary shared reports. The pattern continues but we had the highest revenues yet; however, still shy of the needed revenue. Less than half of the permits are still

available. A few more were purchased for August. July had the highest amount of warnings issued. Allan stated that the 15 minute parking near the Sylvester Apartments isn't being monitored. Mary stated that we don't have the staff availability to monitor 15 min parking, but if it's being abused to call the non-emergency line 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.

If the City of Longview transfers the membership to the Longview Downtowners, then they can apply for a grant to help pay for full time staff person to start the process of being a full member. The City cannot be an applicant, it must be an independent nonprofit. Next round of funding is 2022. Lindsey stated that there is a requirement that matching funds come from the City. Dawn warns the group to be prudent to be sure that there is funding in place beyond the grant as we don't want a repeat of Downtown Business Manager that was only funded for one year.

- 7.3** Parking study updates

Ken has received a scope and budget from a consultant that is reasonable. He sent out a parking survey, in which Lindsey can provide a link to you. Hoping to get some guidance before we get a consultant in place to give them a general direction of what we'd like to see downtown.

7. Old Business

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

This item was discussed during agenda item 9 Discussion Items. It was determined that the group already had a recommendation to Council to go back to pre-Hiatt Palma study parking downtown.

Dawn inquired about the ongoing project at the old Don Cianci building and the fencing that continues to take up parking and now the weeds are becoming unsightly. Brad offered to coordinate pulling the weeds on a clean up day if the fence could be unlocked.

8. New Business

None.

9. Discussion Items

City Council received report on residential development downtown

Dawn pointed out that the report showed a .38 parking spot requirement, which is not enough parking to begin with for the residents, let alone for the ground level businesses and that the City was considering selling for less than market value. The

group dialogue focused on needed parking changes, proposed ideas for how to get money (local and outside) to improve and utilize existing buildings, and how to get the downtown to be a jewel that folks want to come visit.

On-going discussion of parking fund balance decline.

There was at one point a self-sustaining parking program in place, which we need to get back to again. A suggestion was made to double the cost of parking. Changes need to be made and they may hurt at first, but will pay off. It was pointed out that we are down to 90 days before the money runs out! Adam will again revisit the DAC recommendation for parking changes with the City Manager to take back to Council.

10. Next Meeting – October 19th.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 am.