

BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2019

18 December 2019 / 10:30 AM / Culinary Education Center

ATTENDEES

Kathy Kelly (Co-Chair), Amy Quinn (Deputy Mayor), Jenn Hampton, Austin Leopold, Russell Lewis, Jackie Sharpe, Adam Nelson, Marilyn Schlosbach, Sylvia Sylvia-Coffi, Isaac Jones, Sonia Spina, Phyllis Maffucci

ABSENT: Bianca Freda (Co-Chair), Reggie Flimlin, Larry Dembrun

GUESTS: Donna Vieiro (Interim City Manager), Jamie Soto, Chris Zatoeski Robin Elliott Preston, Ben Ross, Cindy Ciullo

AGENDA

November minutes approved.

The committee was introduced to the new Interim City Manager – Donna Vieiro. She gave out some business cards with her cell no and told people they could call her if they had a concern.

1. Santa Con Autopsy – Amy Quinn:

There were two events planned in December – one on 12/7 and one on 12/14. The event on the 14th was cancelled. Santa Run is a 5K race, a fund raiser and well-organized event that was held on 12/7 (this event tends to morph into a pub-crawl after the race). Santa Con is strictly an organized pub-crawl. Both require permits.

Santa Con – organized by people at Porta, were registering people but saying it wasn't an organized event and did not apply for a permit. Porta cancelled the event after they received a letter from the City attorney.

The City is evaluating policy to have the pub-crawls go through special events, this way they will know what extra services are needed; ie: extra police, etc. Although, the City would prefer to discourage bars from promoting pub crawls.

Kathy K – Complaints from Santa Con, the worst hours were between 2-4 pm. The unruly behavior she felt was caused by over pouring at local bars.

Amy asked business owners call while it's happening so they can address it then. If you see someone marketing a pub-crawl send it to City Council member.

Notes: Add the following to agenda for January 2020 -

Invite police officers to a business committee meeting so business owners can be advised on how to handle situations and meet officers on the beat.

Discuss New Labor Bill; Predictive Scheduling, Marilyn S - If you create a schedule and then cancel an event you still have to pay your employees, sometimes at a time ½ rate.

2. Employee Parking Permit Changes:

Employees will not longer be allowed to park on Lake Ave or Summerfield Ave. This new change will begin in January when parking is not an issue.

This new ordinance was passed 2 months ago. An email was sent out about it after it passed. There was a parking committee meeting about this issue last Tuesday.

Jacki S - The only people notified were people who bought permits. (Other's sent out emails to spread the word). There is no value in buying a parking permit now. They are only distributing them quarterly at a cost of \$40-60. per quarter.

Amy Q - The parking Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30. She asked if someone from this committee would be the liaison and go to the meetings. Kathy K and Austin L volunteered to alternate each month.

Amy just got word that they can keep the garage open 7-days until 2 am.

*Important to amplify the message of what's happening with the parking committee so there is better communication.

3. Sub-Committee Report - Boots on the Ground:

Kathy K - They are planning a quarterly, "locals only Clearance Sale" for both retailers and restaurants. It would be in the evening and the businesses would stay open late. Like a shopping crawl. It will begin in January and be held on either the 3rd or 4th week of the month. (Noted - no to interfere with Light of Day).

4. Sub-Committee Report - Pie In The Sky:

Russell Lewis - No Report.

5. **Public Portion:** Marilyn S. handed out “All Hands and Hearts” information flyer. A Volunteer disaster relief effort for communities impacted by natural disasters. Specifically, people in the Bahamas. *see flyer attached.

Russell L reported on his experience handing out reusable bags at the Super, Super Extra grocery store. – took place last Saturday, 12/14 and handed out 200 bags to shoppers which took just less than an hour and a half. There was no resistance from the public, people were very receptive.

Irena collected names of people who are interested in bulk buy of reusable bags.

Sonia S reported there will be a landing page on the City website about reusable bags.

Jamie Soto discussed his upcoming Open House Event taking place on Saturday, February 8th 2020. The event will have a Valentine’s Day theme and attendees will meet the chef instructors and receive a tour of the building, as well as enjoy food demos. **RSVP to 732.988.3299.** The school will also have cooking classes open to the public in the spring, check the schedule for classes and times.

Austin L discussed saving the Urban Enterprise Program and would like more information about the program distributed to local businesses so they can become members and take advantage of the benefits.

Some changes were made to the program and does not have as many benefits as it used to. Although, still no tax to businesses that make purchases for business supplies, including improvements and renovations.

Sonia S will look into the UEZ survey that was done several months ago to see if there are new benefits.

Isaac J would like to revisit the Jitney service with regard to parking.

Sonia S – The parking committee sends out a survey every year, be sure to fill out the survey and give your suggestions.

A comment was made that the survey was not “in depth.”

Meeting Adjourned @ 11:35 am (minutes prepared by Phyllis Maffucci)

Next Meeting Date January 15th @ 10 am, City Managers Conference Room.