



**MEETING MINUTES**

Lesley called the meeting to order at 8:35 am and welcomed members and guests. Members present: Megan Watters, Randy Quick, and Tayesha Lytle. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Patrick Van Der Horn, Doug Walker and Meredith Ulmer. Guests: Olivia Morley.

**ACTION**

No action was taken as there was not a quorum present.

**DISCUSSION**

**Dining District (Open Container) Trial Update** – Lesley gave an update on the first month of Open Container. To date, staff has distributed 2760 Ball aluminum cups to downtown businesses. There are 1440 remaining. Staff will place a bulk order of 1000-1500 to have enough cups to make it through the end of the trial. The Ball cup feedback has been mostly positive, with only a few complaints of the cups being too cold or too large for wine pours. Five businesses so far have submitted their sales impact for August. Retailer A experienced a 28% increase and Retailer B experienced a 95% sales increase over LY. In light of three recent business closings, Lesley expressed how encouraging it is to see businesses doing well. No one believes these increases are a direct result of the open container, but it has gotten positive customer feedback thus far. Restaurant A had a 23% increase over August 2019. Restaurant B had a 7% increase in food sales and 26% increase in alcohol sales, which has been the trend since the pandemic began. Restaurant C had a 10% increase compared to the previous month. RPD has not reported anything noteworthy with the trial. Staff and officers helped educate during the August First Friday concert when some of the merchants thought aluminum cans could be served under the current ordinance. After that, there have not been any issues. With the police presence at the Town Green for the juveniles, one person was educated on the designated cup. There have been no increases with alcohol related incidents or issues with underage drinking. Quick asked if this trial is somewhat self-policing and Lesley said it appears to be that way. Staff asked several downtown residents and patrons to be somewhat of an ambassador to help educate during the trial period, and they have not experienced any issues.

**Town Green/Juvenile Issue** - RCC met last Monday to vote on the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee to move the youth curfew from 11PM to 10PM. Quick reported that one of the primary concerns was that the ordinance was city-wide. The public safety town hall meeting was well attended and there were several complaints that the kids have nothing to do. There is a task-force being formed to help find something productive for the kids. Some of the restaurants are implementing a 9:00 curfew where kids under 17 will have to be accompanied by a parent. Some of the same restaurants expressed a desire for a 9:00 downtown curfew as well. 9:00 seemed a little early for some members, especially on Friday night with the football games at Barron Stadium. The police report conveyed that there are so many cars at night looking for kids that it looks like the car pick-up line at school. Lesley shared the police reports from the town green detail, most of which are traffic violations. There were three underage possession and one curfew violation. The police presence on the town green seems to be mitigating the issue of large groups gathering. Quick noted that the cameras RCC is considering to install will also be able to pick up on large groups gathering in a certain area. There was discussion on recommending a 10PM downtown curfew, since most all businesses are closed at that time, and what the boundaries would be. Lesley will send out an email to the entire board for a vote on the recommendation.

**Fiddlin Fest Covid Safety Precautions** – Otwell updated everyone on the precautions in place for Fiddlin' Fest, scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>. Otwell reminded that several of our businesses have encouraged us to continue with events because they rely on the foot traffic our events bring downtown. Staff will continue to follow CDC guidelines. Vendors will be spread out, masks will be onsite available in visible locations, there will be additional portable restrooms and hand-sanitizing stations. Signage will be up encouraging social distancing, regular announcements will be made, and there will be no seating available in front of stages. Floyd Medical will have a vaccination booth at the event. The core values on our work plan this year is to keep our downtown businesses first and our community serving at the forefront of our decisions.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:13am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aundi Lesley