



FREDERICK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ad Hoc Pop-Up Dining Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022 Noon - PM

The Meeting was held virtually using MS Teams.

The Meeting was Recorded and posted on City Website

All meeting documents are posted on the City Website

The General Public was provided a call-in phone number to listen to the meeting.

Committee members In attendance: Bruce Albaugh, Dr. Alison Bomba, Ellen Pfeiffer, Waymon Wright, Mindy Cawley, Drennan Hicks, Marien Hornyack, Caiti Smith, Jason Miller, Julie Ruzdin, James Smith, Tristan Wasley, Shantay Dubai, Pam Francis, Jeff Griffin

Staff and Ex-Officio in attendance: Zack Kershner, Allen Etzler, Captain Kirk Henneberry, Kara Norman, Sandra Wastler

Director of Economic Development initiated the meeting at 12 noon and notified the participants that the meeting was being recorded. Richard then introduced Mayor Michael O'Connor to kick-off the meeting

1. Welcome/Overview – Mayor Michael O'Connor

Mayor O'Connor opened the virtual meeting at 12 Noon and offered his appreciation for service by the broad-based group of residents and businesspeople serving on the Ad-Hoc Committee.

The Mayor recognized each individual and ask them to introduce themselves briefly. Each member then introduced themselves.

- #### 2. Presentation of previous Pop-Up Dining Program – Richard Griffin introduced Mary Ford-Naill, Manager of DED and Becky Kaler, Business Development Specialist with DED to provide an overview of the prior 2020 and 2021 Pop Up Dining Program. The presentation was shared on the screen, and Becky and Mary provided a detailed presentation about each component of the earlier year's Pop Up Dining components including Sidewalk Café's, Curbside Pickup, Street Closure, Parklets, Parks, and Private locations.

Following the presentation Richard asked if any member of the committee had any questions regarding the presentation or any component of the program before moving on.

Members of the Committee asked for clarifications on the following items and were provided with responses:

- Were fees were required for participant restaurants in the previous Pop-Up Program?
Response: No fees were charged in 2020-2021. Signed legal agreements (and or building permits) and insurance coverage naming City as additional insured were required.
- Prior years of Pop-Up Dining were in direct response to COVID Pandemic. Is this new initiative still in direct response to the COVID pandemic? Response: The new program is intended to respond to consumer trends toward al fresco (outdoor dining) as well as continue to provide a safe outdoor location for consumers to eat outside. Additionally this is an intermediate solution while looking to a more permanent solution as recommended by the Streetscape Study completed by the City/County.
- Why the reduction in number of weekends for street closure in 2021 compared to 2020 –
Response: The reduction was both in response to the high level of staff effort and cost, as well as the fact that in 2021 all restaurants had on-street Parklets and so had less need for street closure.

3. **Overview of Staff Recommendations** - Richard Griffin, Director, Dept. of Economic Development

Richard provided an overview of staff generated recommendations for a Pop-Up Dining program to the Ad-Hoc Committee. He offered that the draft set of recommendations for consideration by the Pop-Up Dining Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee are for development into legislation for review and approval by the Board of Aldermen and implementation in April, 2022. He also stated that the goal established by the Mayor is to offer safe, equitable, and attractive, temporary, multi-year outdoor options for any Frederick based restaurant or food truck to provide al fresco dining experiences for residents, visitors, and workforce throughout the City of Frederick.

Richard also emphasized that there are strong trends toward al fresco (outdoor) dining here in Frederick and throughout the country. Residents, visitors, and workforce want safe, attractive, enjoyable outdoor dining options. However, he also added that it is a balancing process since any use of roadway and on-street parking may impact access and parking for other stakeholder groups.

He offered that the following key considerations must be considered as part of the establishment of the Pop Up Dining Program.

- Safety (vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, patrons)
- Parking Equity (balance parking needs of stakeholders (residents, visitors, employees, business operators – retailers, restaurateurs, and offices)
- Fiscal Equity (balancing public costs/revenue losses -vs- public benefits) – charge reasonable fees.

- To provide safe, equitable, and attractive temporary, multi-year outdoor options for an Frederick based restaurants or food truck

During and following the presentation, Richard asked Committee member for comments and questions. The following comments/questions were made and it was agreed to discuss them in detail at the upcoming 2/15/2022 meeting:

- How can retailers participate in a future Street Closure program, providing an opportunity for retail sales in the street in blocks that are closed down?
- Have we considered a larger opportunity for food trucks – i.e. a potential closure of a street(s) for 1 event or regular time frame for multiple food trucks to utilize and allow outdoor dining/picnicing
- Has the City considered inviting non-downtown restaurants to participate in the Pop-Up Dining Street Closures?
- Clarification was requested regarding the pricing on parklet spaces to ensure that we are equitable in the pricing compared to other communities (Frederick/Annapolis.
- Clarification was requested on the on the parklet commitment. Are the restaurants/retailers required to commit to the entire "season" on the spaces they wish to rent? Or is it by the month? By the week?

Richard thanked the participants for their time, input, and participation. He requested that the participants share the draft staff recommendations with their friends, neighbors, colleagues, businesses and others to get other perspectives on the proposed program. He also reminded the group to send questions and comments to popupdining@cityoffrederickmd.gov.

He ended the meeting at 1PM and reminded the Committee that the City will post minutes from the meeting on the City Pop-Up Dining webpage along with the recording of the meeting.

Next Virtual meeting is Tuesday 2/15/22 at 12noon

The public is invited to listen to the meetings using the phone and ID numbers below to dial in. No comments will be taken from the public during the meetings; however members of the general public can send comments to popupdining@cityoffrederickmd.gov

(audio only)

+1 929-229-5669

Phone Conference ID: 117 277 441#