

DRAFT
Vaughan Mall Blue Ribbon Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020 9:30 AM

Members Present: Doug Roberts, Chair; Ned Raynolds; Brian Murphy; Sam Winebaum; Peter Vandermark; Ellen Fineberg, Mayor Becksted

Staff: Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Manager

Chairman Roberts opened the meeting and read a statement RE: NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) which declares COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and therefore he has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-09, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members are participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

Review/acceptance of February 6, 2020 draft meeting notes

On a motion by Ned Raynolds, seconded by Ellen Fineberg the Committee unanimously voted by roll call to accept the draft minutes of February 6, 2020.

Current Vaughan Mall conditions amid COVID 19-Pandemic restrictions

The Committee reviewed a rough plan illustrating the current status of outdoor dining permits that follow the COVID 19 guidance on table spacing and face masks. The dining approvals total 50 tables and 174 seats between La Carreta, Shalimar, The Green Room, and The District. Chairman Roberts reported that a couple of these venues may wish to expand their current outdoor footprint and additional outdoor lighting was desired by several businesses. The consensus was that, given the current outdoor dining activity in the Mall, it is not necessary to make a recommendation to the Citizen Response Task Force for additional use of the public realm for dining and other activities during the pandemic.

Review of Revised Improvement Plan

The Committee reviewed the revised Klopfer Martin improvement plan for the Mall and commented on the pedestrian pathway, planting, lighting and signage as follows:

Path and Circulation:

- The various outdoor dining layouts throughout the Mall provide a "living lab" of heightened use of the Mall and forces pedestrians to follow a serpentine path through it.
- City should explore installing a pedestrian camera to record pedestrian movement and activity and use the data for circulation enhancements.
- The circulation should be further refined to flow smoothly without being too prescriptive.
- The consultant should explore pushing the flow on the ground plane – perhaps explore one-way lanes for pedestrian guidance and to encourage social distancing.
- Friendly and welcoming signage at the entrances would improve the experience of traveling through the Mall and help businesses.

Lighting:

- Lighting is priority for the near term.
- Expand on the overhead lighting that is there.
- Explore the possibility of purchasing light forms from Pandora similar to those at the entrance to Ceres St.
- When done properly the lighting should serve to provide ambiance, safety and ambiance to the Mall experience.

Planting:

- Improvement to the landscaping is a near-term priority particularly at the entrances and in the planting beds along the railing and stage.
- Explore creating an adopt-a spot location for the priority areas and have businesses contribute to the cost of plants and ongoing maintenance.

Other:

- Moveable furniture should be returned to the Mall when pandemic conditions subside.
- Consider purchasing additional functional and artful seating to enhance the Mall experience and to benefit the businesses without outdoor dining permits.

Next Steps

Chairman Roberts and Ms. Carmer will relate the Committee's comments to Klopfer Martin for further plan refinement. Staff will look into the possibility of creating an adopt-a-spot program in the Mall, installing a pedestrian camera and expansion of the battery-operated lighting. The next meeting will be determined after plan revisions are complete.

The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by Nancy Carmer