

Minutes of 5/28/2020 Maynard Economic Development Committee, 8 am., via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 8 am.

Members present: Cressy, Zammuto, Nemser, Beck, MacKeen, Downey, Thayer, Freker, and Greenstein.

Others present: Alma & Alphonso Moreno (El Huipil & Azucar), Rachael Bankey (MBA), Zannah Noe (Ec. Dev. Project Coordinator/Maynard), and Armand Diarbekirian (BOS Liaison).

Minutes of 5/28/2020 unanimously approved.

Pandemic Updates. Nemser reported that Zagster has officially closed. Downey reported that the TM has been rescheduled to June 13th, 1:30 pm, and will be held in the Sudbury Street parking lot at Mill & Main, a la “drive-in” movie style.

Local Business Recovery: Main & Nason Summer Shop & Dine

Group discussed outdoor dining proposal sent on 5/27/2020.

Option 1 is to close Main St. to vehicular traffic. Maynard Fest serves as a precedent. Need to leave 9 to 14 feet open for emergency vehicles.

How do we insure accessibility for pick-up and curbside? Rear entrances are accessible due to Naylor Court and River St. Lynda suggested making River St. a “two-way.” Zammuto mentioned that there is quite a bit of underutilized parking. Since this will likely have a regional draw, Cressy reminded the group that wayfaring for visitors would be useful.

Option 2 is to create pocket courts for outdoor dining. Specifically, a pocket park between Acuzar and Sugar Snap. Option 2 doesn't reduce parking but will affect access to Naylor Court.

Option 3 is to create parklets, by utilizing parking spaces. Boston has initiated a pilot project. There was some concern as to adequate space to socially distance.

Option 4 is to convert part of Naylor Court into a food court, where restaurants outside the footprint can join to serve food, like Café of India does at Maynard Fest. Plentiful space at this location.

At the close of the presentation, the following discussion ensued.

-Thayer attended a workshop, and the take-away was this immediate crisis needs immediate solutions. But this is not a festival, due to social distancing.

-Beck mentioned that this is an ideal moment to include public art, and perhaps consider using the basin wall as a screen. He and Justin DeMarco (DPW) are discussing painting creative crosswalks.

-Freker mentioned that Rep. Hogan filed legislation to simplify permitting for outside dining.

-The basin needs a little TLC. If the basin's used, dumpsters would need to be centralized.

-DPW spending freeze may impact ability to obtain signage.

-If we suggest Option 1, when should Main St. be closed? Cressy suggested Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 4 to 8 pm. Greenstein suggested that we might want to consider semi-permanent

closure, like a pedestrian court, for the summer. The Moreno's suggested Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

-The group asked the Moreno's how many tables they would need to make outside dining worth their time? They estimate 8 tables with 10 sf/table.

A motion was made and seconded to propose to the BOS that they consider closing Main Street from Thursday to Sunday (Option 1).

Vote was 8-1. Thayer opposed. She feels that the impact is "too cumbersome, at least for the moment."

Bankey will survey MBA members for feedback. Zammuto will craft a proposal for the 6/9 BOS Meeting.

Naylor Court Refuse Collection Initiative. Nemser reported that they are currently determining what is private vs. public property and building consensus on what the "court" needs.

Other—

Nemser seeks a volunteer from the MEDC to sit on the Housing Production Update Committee.

Beck reported that ArtSpace is currently working on a directional sign installation called "where do we go from here?" Signs will reflect thoughts and feelings about the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Proposed minutes submitted by Sarah Cressy on 6.3.2020