

Community and Government Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 14, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Present: Councilpersons Ben Bell, Tim Brennan, Larry Browne, and Amy Popkin, as well as Junior Councilperson Mary Frances McNulty, Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Noni West, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien and Borough Planning Commission Chair James Lannon.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Social Media Policy: The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft social media policy prepared by Joanna Waldron, Borough Solicitor. The Committee voted unanimously to forward the policy, as written, to Borough Council for approval.

Council Practices for Remote Participation by Members: The discussion of Committee members attending meetings remotely continued. John noted that Council Committees were not created by resolution or ordinance and consequently there was no guidance as to quorums. John was asked to research how other local boroughs set up their Council Committees.

It was determined that moving forward, those present at committee meetings, including whether present in person or via Zoom, would be noted in the minutes and that otherwise, the minutes and Council memos would be silent as to quorum.

Supporting Remote Public Participation in Meetings: John reported on the decision to reopen Borough Hall meeting rooms, along with the audio/video equipment, for use by the community. John also noted many meetings have been shared via Zoom, and it has worked well. He feels it is a good time to provide that option to the public once again. Training sessions for the streaming of meetings have not been scheduled yet, but will take place soon.

Youth Recognition Program: Mary Frances recapped the idea of a Youth Leadership Award and the new form she's created for nominations. She has generated a draft email to be sent, with approval, to Central Bucks West High School to enlist more student participation in Borough public meetings. John suggested sending information for these programs to other schools with students residing in the Borough, including private schools, and to CB Cares. The Committee discussed criteria in the selection process as well as ways to recognize students in a positive way. Ben and Mary Frances will come up with more ideas for selection criteria in time for the next meeting.

2022 Pedestrian Zones: John explained the South Main Street area has no interest or need to be included in this year's Pedestrian Zones. The opening and closing times will remain the same as last year. The Liquor Control Board will require an extension of premises in order to allow for alcohol consumption. Additionally, the Borough's Open Container ordinance will need to be adjusted for this program, as well as for the new platform dining program. Last year's entertainment was a problem, with big, loud bands at certain locations. Borough staff will work with the restaurants involved to keep the noise and overlap under control. The Committee discussed the idea of making more rules regarding entertainment or allowing the restaurants to try to work it out on their own.

Mayor's Legislative Update: None.

New/Old Business: None.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer
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