

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

Thursday, 4/16/2021 – 8am, via Zoom

**Attendance:** Council President Jack O'Brien, Councilpersons Noni West, Larry Browne, Ben Bell, and Joe Flood, as well as Mayor Ron Strouse, Borough Manager John Davis, and Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger.

The **Minutes** from the April 1, 2021 meeting were approved. (West-Browne)

**Merchant Group Meeting Discussion.** Mayor Strouse explained the desire of the merchants to have a committee of their own, with meeting once a month. They would like to do what they can to encourage the merchants to embrace the street closures throughout the spring and summer. Opinions of having their shops open during the street closures vary, although many would like to have sidewalk sales during the events. The biggest impediment for them to stay open at night and have product on the street is that they will need an additional employee scheduled. The business owners involved are encouraging participation and incorporating a paid 'Main Street Manager' position, which would need to be paid through their own efforts, into their group to encourage and enhance their business, and plan to include restaurant owners as well.

**Latest Guidelines for Occupancy and Social Distancing and Incorporating that into the Permitting Process.** John noted some of the events planned (such as small concerts and outdoor movies) are small enough that these issues will not come into play. They will be observed, however, in order to maintain proper social distancing and following mask protocols. Regarding the car show, that will need to be reviewed again when there is a better idea of attendance. Most of the capacity limits are dictated by size of facilities in the Borough rather than Covid restrictions. Permits for outdoor events are issued by CBRPD and include Borough ordinances as well as Covid protocols. For now, observing the events, especially the street closures on Friday and Saturday nights, will show where the Borough needs to react appropriately.

**Old/New Business.** Noni asked if there is a plan to review the nonprofits in town. That was discussed at the last meeting, although it will be discussed going forward, as far as encouraging more community awareness and support. Ben did mention fundraising can be done by Borough members as community members but outside of official Borough endorsement. John noted it should probably be discussed with Borough Counsel.

Meeting adjourned 9:03am

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kramer  
Minutes Secretary