

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

Friday, 5/21/2021 – 8am, via Zoom

Attendance: Council President Jack O'Brien, Joe Frederick, Larry Browne, Jen Jarret, Ben Bell, and Joe Flood, as well as Mayor Ron Strouse, and Borough Manager John Davis. Kris and Paul Boger attended as well.

The **Minutes** from the May 7, 2021 meeting were approved. (Frederick-Bell)

Status of Pick-up Parking Spots: John noted all of the signs will be collected the Tuesday after Memorial Day, with no negative response from those with the signs. There are a handful of restaurants that want to use parking spaces for outdoor dining, which should not affect parking revenues much, as there are only a handful of parking spots in use and usually at night. Those restaurants will be monitored for their usage going forward.

Outdoor Dining: John requested some guidance from the group. West State Street has more restaurants than East State Street. The Main Street location needs to be adjusted a bit. The South Main block has lost Stephanie's and there hasn't been much participation with the businesses in that location. The North Main Street area has evolved a bit more than intended involving people gathering and drinking in the street more as opposed to actual outdoor dining. Entertainment has been increased which was not the original concept and can negatively impact the dining. Paul Boger noted, as a participant and resident, the North Main Street area has gotten a bit raucous. The music tends to be loud and intrusive, although there are other issues regarding opening the streets to people not dining or shopping. Joe Frederick suggested going back to the original intent of dining with no bands, and instead invite acoustic musicians only. There were noise complaints called in to the police department recently. A decision needs to be made whether the outdoor dining is to continue as intended or if the bands are permitted, which leads to more of a block party atmosphere. Ben suggests finding out first from the community what they prefer. Mayor Strouse reminded the group the planned events were designed to reinvigorate the businesses; the bands and outdoor drinking/festival atmosphere may hurt that and the best idea is to talk with the businesses to determine what they want to do. Borough ordinances as well as Liquor Control Board restrictions do not normally allow for drinking alcohol while on a public street.

John suggested reiterating the guidelines established in the beginning: all tables must be removed by 11pm, there must be a seat for every visitor, and all entertainers be limited to one amplifier. He will generate a draft message for the group to work on together to address these issues in a way that still benefits the businesses and the public.

John briefly brought to the group that Finney's would like to bring in a food truck for the South Main Street events, as other restaurants on that block are not participating; that will be a topic of discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kramer
Minutes Secretary