



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

August 5, 2020

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Receive report on the Town's Business Recovery Programs and consider/discuss the establishment and funding for a residential rental assistance program

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report on the Town's Business Recovery Programs and consider/discuss the establishment and funding for a residential rental assistance program and direct staff, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

The Council requested monthly updates on the Town's Business Recovery programs. We have the following to report:

Temporary Use Permit (TUP)

We have issued five (5) TUP's to the following businesses:

- The Lodge 1573 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
- Hairfax 31 Bolinas Road
- Mas Masa 31a Bolinas Road
- Mettacine 12e School Street Plaza
- Flying Dutchman Gymnastics 60 Pastori Avenue

Temporary Encroachment Permit (TEP):

We have issued six (6) TEP's to Coffee Roastery, Gestalt Haus, Hummingbird, Amelie Café , Roco Dance, and Yoga Mountain. Roco Dance and Yoga Mountain will be using the ballfield for their classes. There are several more applications in the pipeline. We are also working on compliance issues with applicants.

Small Business Recovery Grants

We have issued 20 grants totaling \$20,000. There are five grant applications in the pipeline to be reviewed. We are no longer accepting applications.

The Town Council allocated \$42,500 for grants, we received \$7,500 from the County of Marin, and we have received \$2,171 in business fund donations (as of 7/23). Administrative costs to date for MarinLink to manage the fund is \$2,046.

Residential Rental Assistance Program

Mayor Goddard and Councilmember Hellman have requested that the Council reallocate Town funds for the Business Recovery Grants to a rental assistance program for residents. The purpose of the program is to help residents in need whose household incomes are adversely impacted by COVID-19. The program would be modeled after a similar program operated by Corte Madera. The Town of Corte Madera contributed \$50,000 and the Corte Madera Community Foundation donated \$25,000 to a rental assistance fund. Corte Madera indicates they have issued 50 grants with a streamlined application process. We will be discussing the program in more detail with Corte Madera staff and will have general program recommendations for the Council at the August 5th meeting.

With regard to available funding, the Council could consider reallocating monies from the business recovery grant fund. There is approximately \$23,000 available. This estimate is based on a) excluding donations, b) deducting for administrative costs, c) assuming the five (5) remaining grant requests are awarded, and d) assuming the County is ok with using all their funds first. We did not include the donations because the donations were made specifically to benefit businesses. The Council can also decide to allocate additional funds to such a rental program.

While staff will be providing program recommendations to the Council at the meeting, below are a few key policy issues for the Council to ponder:

1. Do we want to offer such a program?
2. How much initial funding?
3. Should we limit the program to lower income groups?
4. Should we require documentation to demonstrate need for the assistance?
5. Should we contract with a non-profit to administer the program?
6. Should it be first-come, first-serve or lottery based? (probably depends on demand)
7. How much should be the rental assistance?

Public Spaces

We are working with the Chamber to implement the use of the Mono parking lot from Thursday to Sunday.

We are also working to use the public parking spaces on Bolinas Rd.

The Town received a Quick Build grant of \$16,000 from the TAM to help implement some of the public improvements.

This is all a work in progress and we are trying to “keep up” with all the demand for public spaces.