



Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force Minutes

Date: Tuesday March 17, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/96211802074>

Meeting ID: 962 1180 2074

Passcode: 776846

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Present: Jennifer Raitt, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Ali Carter, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Leland Stein, Regent Theater; Kathleen Darcy, Cambridge Savings Bank; Rachel Zsembery, Arlington Redevelopment Authority; Tim Haley, Ellenhorn; Cristin Bagnall, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture; Alyssa Clossey, Support Arlington Center; Beth Locke, Arlington Chamber of Commerce; Bob Bowes, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty; Janet O'Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill; Emily Shea, Kickstand Cafe

Guest: Len Diggins, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Minutes

1. Approval of minutes. Motion made by Tim Haley, seconded by Kathleen Darcy. Approved unanimously.
2. Public Health update: there are currently 1,660 positive covid cases so far in Arlington, and 83 deaths. There have also been 157 probable cases and 1,058 known recovered cases. Phase 4, Step 1 scheduled to begin on March 22nd.
3. Seasonal Outdoor programs: Ali reported that the Temporary Outdoor Dining License program and the Temporary Outdoor Fitness and Arts programs are live now with a target start date of April 15th for both programs. This year the orange barriers in the parklets are going to be a programming focus for the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC). Artists will be commissioned to do work on barriers to make them more attractive. Task Force members asked how people will learn about the opportunity, and Cristin Bagnall explained the outreach strategy using ArtsArlington.org and through Artlinks and other local

channels. Another member asked who is renewing and Ali said many business owners from last year are opting into both programs but that we are still actively receiving application, so it is difficult to give a firm answer at this moment.

4. Proposed Outdoor Entertainment Regulations: Ali presented draft outdoor entertainment regulations that align with state reopening guidelines and included proposed locations. The purpose of these regulations is to offer support for Arlington artists and arts organizations through outdoor opportunities as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.
 - a. Discussion: Stephanie Marlin-Curiel asked why the Jason Russell House is not included on the proposed list of properties. Ali answered that only Town-owned properties are listed as proposed locations, and the Jason Russell House is on private property, however these regulations would apply to events on private property as well. Someone else noted that certain aspects of the regulations, such as capacity restrictions, should be edited to align with current phasing so they do not have to be updated every time there is a change in the reopening guidelines. Someone asked if these could apply to outdoor drive-in movies. Ali noted that there are separate guidelines for drive-in movies. Leland Stein noted that accommodating events outdoors is necessary for indoor venues struggling to survive with capacity restrictions and a ban on indoor singing.
5. Scope for Organizational Economic Development Plan: Little time was left on the agenda to discuss the scope of work for an organizational economic development plan, which would seek to hire a consultant to streamline and organize the economic development-related committees in town, including the Task Force. Ali noted that the Task Force has been uniquely effective in its pandemic response initiatives and wanted to plan for continuing this group's work beyond the pandemic and in collaboration with other Town committees such as ATED, the Battle Road Scenic Byway, and the ACAC. There is no deadline for this project, but Ali would like to kick it off in the fall so Town committees can start organizing for 2025 Revolutionary War semi quincentennial events.

Next meeting: Tuesday April 20, 2021 at 2 p.m.