



Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force Minutes

Date: Tuesday August 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; Bob Bowes, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty; Janet O'Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill; Emily Shea, Kickstand Café; Tim Haley, Ellenhorn; Sarah Morgan-Wu, The Object of Stories; Bootsy Mullan, Town Tavern; Richard Fraiman, Capitol Theater; Alyssa Clossey, Support Arlington Center; John Hurd, Select Board

Guest: Len Diggins, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

1. Public health update
2. Discussion: Potential extension of Temporary Outdoor Fitness and Arts Program (TOFAP) and future of Temporary Outdoor Dining License (TODL) program

Ali provided an overview of both programs and asked for feedback on whether they should be extended, and any suggestions about them.

- a. TODL: Sarah Morgan-Wu as if other types of uses could be allowed through TODL program, such as retail or painting ceramics like Clay Dreams has been doing in a parklet? Ali said other uses could be considered. Len Diggins suggested that sidewalks should be used for restaurants only, but parklets can provide more flexible uses because they don't need to also provide an essential service for pedestrians the way

sidewalks do. Kathleen Darcy asked if there should be a limit on the number of parking spaces allowed to be used as parklets. John Hurd suggested that outdoor dining proposals that include public parking requests should be reviewed by the Select Board but that requests that don't have parking impacts could be reviewed administratively as they have been through the TODL program, which would allow the Board to review parking impacts of outdoor installations on a case-by-case basis. Sarah Morgan-Wu wondered if approval or consent from neighboring businesses would be necessary for approval. Stephanie Marlin-Curiel suggested that Linwood Circle was underutilized park space and that the lawn at Trinity Church in East Arlington was also not used often. Ali replied that the former could be considered part of the TOFAP program potentially, but the latter was private property and therefore not really part of this discussion. Richard Fraiman had questions about the potential for metered parking in East Arlington, saying that it could bring consistency to parking enforcement in that business district. He likes the model in place in Arlington Center. John Hurd suggested that is a subject that could be discussed by the Parking Advisory Committee.

- b. TOFAP: Janet O'Riordan from the Old Schwamb Mill stated that her organization appreciates that Wonder Yoga uses Mill Pond Park near the museum for classes and would be willing to provide a letter of support to continue the program. Sarah Morgan-Wu asked if the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) received any negative feedback about the program, and that she believed it would be a shame for the program to end. Len Diggins encouraged folks to participate in the Open Space and Recreation Planning process to share their views about future uses of parks in town.
- c. Next steps: Jenny Raitt suggested that the pre-COVID sidewalk café permit application process be amended to include a bifurcated review process that was expedited for sidewalk seating but required Select Board review and approval for proposals that had public parking impacts. This parking space policy could allow for uses other than outdoor dining. For the TOFAP program, she noted that the Open Space and Recreation Plan is a longer-term process and encouraged participation in it.

3. Economic Development funding through ARPA.

Ali explained that the economic development ARPA funding proposal would be presented by the Town Manager at an upcoming Select Board meeting and encouraged Task Force members to attend that presentation and view materials for it if possible.

Next meeting: September 21, 2021, at 2 p.m.