



Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force Minutes

Date: Tuesday May 18, 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

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,96211802074#,,,,,0#,,776846# US

+13017158592,,96211802074#,,,,,0#,,776846# US

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; Cristin Bagnall, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture; Beth Locke, Arlington Chamber of Commerce; Bob Bowes, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty; Janet O'Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill; Emily Shea, Kickstand Café; Michelle Casey, Marchelle Salone; Erik Kondo, One Broadway; Tom Formicola, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture; Heather Leavell, Cyrus Dallin Museum

Guest: Len Diggins, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Minutes

1. Approval of minutes tabled until next meeting.
2. Public Health update: there are currently 1,883 positive covid cases so far in Arlington, and 87 deaths. There have also been 183 probable cases. Phase 4, Step 1 scheduled to begin on March 22nd.
3. Baker-Polito administration announced yesterday that COVID restrictions will be lifted on May 29. Ali reported that we are waiting for information about when Town Hall will reopen to the public. We are also waiting for guidance from the state on outdoor dining and if temporary allowances for alcohol services that were part of the State of Emergency will be extended after the State of Emergency ends on June 15. We are also awaiting guidance on the future of remote vs. in-person meetings. Business owners reported that they are unsure about their ability to enforce mask use in their businesses after May 29 even

though they are allowed to continue to ask customers to wear them inside their businesses. Lots of confusion among members of the public about necessary mask use as well.

4. Temporary Outdoor Community Events (TOCE): Ali reported that the Temporary Outdoor Community Event Program would not be necessary if the Town follows State guidelines and does not have more strict local regulations. Leland Stein commented that the TOCE regulations would have been helpful for for-profit businesses who wanted to hold events outdoors, since that is not currently allowed by the Park and Recreation Commission. He expressed concern that it would still be a while before people would be willing to go inside for everything. The Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) is considering working with the Park and Recreation Commission long-term to allow outdoor arts events in parks, so they can continue this conversation with them.
5. Parklets: Ali presented findings from the 2021 Arlington Consumer survey that showed a very favorable community response to the parklets and that many folks in town wanted them to remain a permanent feature after the end of the pandemic and that there should be more of them. Beth Locke expressed the need to create standards for aesthetics and maintenance, especially trash removal. Beautification needs to be emphasized to attract new businesses and more customers to Town. Cristin Bagnall noted that the ACAC is funding the decoration of orange water walls currently surrounding projects as well as other efforts to spruce up the Town in collaboration with the Chamber, with over 20 businesses currently supporting the program.

Next meeting: Tuesday June 15, 2021, at 2 p.m.