



City Council Economic Development Subcommittee

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Conference Room A

City Hall, 501 Primrose Road – Burlingame, California

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 8:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien Keighran, Councilmember Ricardo Ortiz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager (CM) Lisa Goldman, Community Development Director (CDD) Kevin Gardiner, Economic Development Specialist (EDS) Joseph Sanfilippo, Finance Director (FD) Carol Augustine

Members of the Public Present: John Kevranian (Broadway Business Improvement District), Georgette Naylor (Burlingame SFO/Chamber of Commerce), Pookie Selig (Coconut Bay), Riyad Salma, Alisa Ferrari (Stella Alpina Osteria)

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING

- Approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion of Live Music

CM Goldman introduced the topic, mentioning that several restaurants have asked the City for permission to offer musical entertainment. Similar events were initially discouraged during the Broadway and Burlingame Avenue street closures to prevent a festive atmosphere.

CM Goldman noted that the cities of San Mateo and Palo Alto are not issuing entertainment permits throughout the pandemic, though these had been mentioned as possibly allowing musical uses.

Vice Mayor O'Brien raised concern with people congregating around musicians and not social distancing. Councilmember Ortiz noted that the Burlingame Avenue closure was repealed because of crowds forming, and he would not be in favor of musical acts that may cause similar situations.

Mr. Salma wondered if instrumental music or solo/duo performers would be permitted at a later date. CM Goldman mentioned that the Subcommittee might want to revisit this topic should San Mateo County move down to the orange tier on the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Discussion of Commission Fee Caps for Delivery Companies

CM Goldman introduced the topic, noting that delivery companies such as DoorDash and Grubhub charge high commission fees for food delivery, which can cause an undue burden on business owners. Both South San Francisco and Millbrae have enacted caps on these fees, and staff is

interested in whether the Subcommittee members wished to recommend that the full City Council consider a local cap. CM Goldman also mentioned that Supervisor Pine is contemplating a countywide cap on delivery fees.

Alisa Ferrari (Stella Alpina Osteria) noted that restaurants are already operating on small profit margins. Though many restaurants may have avoided third-party delivery companies in the past, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated their use, and the high commission fees pose a great burden on restaurants. Ms. Ferrari recommended a 15% limit due to the precedent set by other Bay Area jurisdictions.

Pookie Selig (Coconut Bay) also encouraged that the Subcommittee recommend a 15% cap, similar to neighboring jurisdictions such as Millbrae and South San Francisco. All other public attendees (John Kevranian, Riyad Salma, and Georgette Naylor) echoed these sentiments.

Councilmember Ortiz questioned why restaurants would opt to use these platforms if the commission fees are so high. Ms. Ferrari noted that some services offered by the platforms (pickup versus delivery, etc.) are less expensive for restaurants, and the platforms do offer marketing opportunities otherwise unavailable to business owners. Ms. Selig also mentioned that consumer preferences have changed to be more amenable to third-party delivery services. This necessitates restaurants use the platforms to increase their revenue as much as possible during the pandemic.

Vice Mayor O'Brien asked what the timeline would be for implementation (should a cap be adopted), and when the end date for this cap would be.

Ms. Ferrari encouraged limits of 60 days after the pandemic. CM Goldman noted that South San Francisco's limit sunsets 180 days after the local emergency is repealed.

Mr. Salma questioned if delivery drivers would move to other areas as a result of the cap, which could lead to slower delivery or fewer drivers in the area.

The Subcommittee members both agreed that this item should be brought to the full City Council for a discussion, potentially to enact an urgency ordinance.

Request to Extend Façade Improvement Program Deadlines

EDS Sanfilippo introduced the topic.

Though four of the six approved applicants for the Broadway Façade Improvement Pilot Program have completed their improvements, staff requests an extension of the deadline to implement the improvements (currently slated for October 31).

CM Goldman noted that the deadline could be extended until the end of the fiscal year to assuage Subcommittee members' concerns with granting an indefinite period to complete the improvements. Both Subcommittee members agreed to extend the application deadlines to the end of the fiscal year 2020-21.

Future Agenda Topics

Councilmember Ortiz expressed interest in meeting again with the hoteliers and restaurateurs.

Mr. Kevranian encouraged the Subcommittee to consider a day of free parking per week in commercial districts.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Mr. Salma questioned if building permit applications related to façade work would be expedited during the pandemic. CDD Gardiner noted that façade changes currently must go to the Planning Commission per the municipal code.

Action Items

- EDS Sanfilippo will contact the Subcommittee to determine a date for the November Subcommittee meeting.
- EDS Sanfilippo and CDD Gardiner will draft a staff report discussing the commission fee caps for delivery fee companies to be brought to the full City Council.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- November ??, 2020- Discussion of free parking on specific days in commercial districts, TBD

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Sanfilippo
Economic Development Specialist