

Community Affairs Commission Minutes August 20, 2020

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TARRANT

CITY OF BEDFORD

The Community Affairs Commission of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 5:30 pm via video conference call, Thursday, the 20th of August 2020 with the following members present:

Sal Caruso
Tracy Madewell
Terry Sullivan
Margaret Hall
Josh Ulupano (joined at 5:50pm)

Paola Mariscal
Kimela Ledbetter
Joshua Renken
Maritza Riley

Constituting a quorum.

Others Present:

Meg Jakubik – City Staff Representative
Amy Sabol – City Council Liaison

Absent:

Nichelle Dawkins

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Caruso called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME

Chairman Caruso welcomed everyone to the online meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review/revise and approve minutes of the following Community Affairs Commission meetings:

a) July 16, 2020

Ms. Madewell moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Renken seconded the motion. The commission passed it unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion regarding how and to which businesses to distribute facemasks.

This was discussed after Item 4. The mask image will be “Shop Bedford” with the stylized Bedford B. The image will go across the mask. 750 masks will be ordered for \$2,000. The CAC will contribute \$1400 and the City will cover the rest. Businesses can give them out to customers and their employees, so anyone visiting the business sees the mask. It was suggested we give them to “mom & pop” type businesses like Rosakos, Colossal, What’s Poppin, Moonlight Bakery, and Rita’s Italian Ice. Also suggested were Movie Tavern Bedford, Kroger, credit unions and banks and hair salons.

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3. Discussion regarding “Talk Bedford” interview.

This was discussed after Item 2. The first interview will be Chairman Caruso interviewing the Mayor for 15 minutes. The goal of Talk Bedford is to increase communication to residents. It will be posted to NextDoor, Facebook, the City website and YouTube, which has viewing statistics. Questions will be elicited from residents to include in the interviews.

4. Review and possible action regarding Subcommittee Director Reports:

a. Residential Outreach

Report given by Margaret Hall. Tentative date for residential outreach event is 10/5/20, a Monday to be broadcast on the PEG channel and Facebook. The agenda will be set after the City budget approval. Suggested agenda topics include the mayor speaking on any topic, Meg on the City budget, Phase Next update by Kelly Snook, the project manager, a COVID-19 update by Chief Fay, and an introduction of the new City manager Jimmy Stathatos. The program will be advertised and viewer feedback requested. Questions for the speakers will be elicited through Facebook, Nextdoor, the City website. Request for questions should start early September with a deadline of mid-September. The event will be recorded at the end of September.

b. Business Outreach

Report given by Josh Renken. Coupon page went out with water bill in August and was delivered to apartment complexes. The second one is complete and will have 12 coupons. The third coupon page is in the works now. The Commission wants a way to recruit businesses that is more efficient than telephoning and emailing.

Chairman Caruso requested a letter on official city stationary explaining all about the coupon page, the distribution, the steps to be included on it, and a photo of the second coupon page. It would include a link to the form to sign up to have a coupon. Mr. Renken suggested a bit.ly link be used. The letter would cut down on how much talking a CAC member has to do, which is easier for places like busy restaurants. The letter can be left for an employee to pass on to their boss or get an email address to send it directly to the manager or owner.

Chairman Caruso will create a list of 100 – 200 businesses to target and everyone can help by contacting 5-10 businesses. The deadline to participate in the October mailing is September 15, leaving 2 ½ weeks to reach out. Volunteers available to assist with contact businesses should notify Chairman Caruso.

c. Block Party

No report given.

d. Awards Program

No report given.

5. Council Liaison Report

Councilwoman Sabol reported the new City manager Jimmy Stathatos starts September 14. He was with Flower Mound for 7 years, handling a budget of \$178 million. Prior to Flower Mound, he worked for Roanoke for 15 years. He interned in Eules. He’s an Aggie and he has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from UNT, so he has lots of local connections.

Regarding Next Phase, the asbestos abatement has been done in the park buildings and day care has been purchased. Next is demolishing all the buildings on the site.

The budget decision was unanimous. Discussions went all day and into the next meeting.

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6. **Staff Liaison Report.**

It is the end of the fiscal year, so it is time for Commission appointments. September interviews are planned and applications are due by September 4. Terry Sullivan, Tracy Madewell and Joshua Renken are at the end of their CAC terms, so they will need to reapply if they wish to remain on the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Madewell seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Sal Caruso, Chairman