



Littleton RISE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

2:30pm-3:30pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Council: Mayor Valdes; Councilmember Driscoll

Businesses	Attendee
First Bank	Rick Bruno
In-Tea	Carol Alvarez
Littleton Business Chamber	Pat Dunahay
Love, Inc	Kathryn Roy
Redstone	Korri Lundocho
Social Bar	Steve Cominsky

Staff: Mark Relph, Kathleen Osher, Kelli Narde, Denise Stephens

Agenda

1. Weekends on Main recap of Weekend #1	Kelli Narde
2. Arapahoe County Variance Request	Mark Relph
3. Business Grants Update – Phases 1,2 & 3	Denise Stephens
4. Progress of the Arapahoe Recovery Group	Denise Stephens
5. Group Discussion	

Weekends on Main

- Great success
- Vendor supplied chairs, fencing, tables
- Elizabeth Scofield and Tim Weaver mapped out the area with social spacing
- Very organized set up
- Will do this for two weeks and re-evaluate
- May reduce the time on Sundays
- RISE Committee comments:
 - Rick Bruno – good turnout and presentation
 - Kathryn Roy – Went to Smokin Fins, very full on Saturday; weren’t menus supposed to be disposable?; Didn’t see the retail stores promotion

- Kelli Narde – 1400 promotion cards were made for distribution by restaurants; also menus were also available through a QR code on phones
- Jerry Valdes – Went on Friday evening. Good turnout. Why no tents? Sunday seemed slow. Would be in favor of opening streets sooner on Sunday.
- Kelli Narde – Health Department didn't approve tents. Only umbrellas. Many had umbrellas with their branding on it.
- Carole Alvarez – Very organized. Went great. Sunday was slow. Lots of good feedback. Very worth doing. Willows had coupons that we passed out. Shops need to stay open.

Arapahoe County Variance Request

- Mark Relph - Arapahoe County submitted a request to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), asking the state to grant a variance from current public health orders for certain industries within the county. Specifically requested that gyms, houses of worship, and restaurants be allowed to operate at 50 percent of the fire code capacity. The review process takes 7-10 days.

Regarding the CARES Act, Arapahoe County has put together a process for cities to access the money. Littleton received \$4.4 million. Denise Stephens has been working with other cities regarding the grants.

Business Grants Update

- Denise Stephens – On the first round of grants 60 people/businesses received \$2,500 each. On May 8, Council approved a second round for 50 people/businesses. Checks will be going out this week. We are working with Centennial, Greenwood Village, Englewood and Aurora to come up with a consistent application process for the county. We are anticipating a third round of grants for business interruption and infrastructure changes. A lot is being pursued rapidly. The County is asking for clarification from the Treasury Department.

Arapahoe Recovery Group

- Arapahoe County Recovery Group has had consistent communication across the board so we can share information. COVID-19 cases are flat and have declined since April. New claims for unemployment are down in Arapahoe County. Small Business Development Group is sharing with the Recovery Group and is sharing training opportunities to apply for grants.

Group Discussion

- Kathleen Osher – Josh Kalkhorst wasn't able to join today but he shared that 42 out of 46 tenants at Aspen Grove are open which include Tattered Cover and the Apple Store. Ted's Montana Grill has received a patio extension and Rice Bistro has applied for one. The Littleton Car Jam this weekend is sold out. Farmer's Market will be on Wednesday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Paris Street Market will be held on July 4. Convenience of the layout is allowing people to feel comfortable to be here.

- Rick Bruno – I had read that retail sales were off by 17% in May.
- Mark Relph – We are discussing with Council next week regarding retail sales. Sales appear better than we expected. We were expecting 10-25% but is on the lower side.
- Pat Driscoll – Anyone go to Paris Street Market two Saturday's ago? Kelli Narde: talked to Tim Vandel. They had 40 vendors. That Saturday was extremely windy and they were only open for 2 hours.
- Kelli Narde – Little Car Jam is sold out. We aren't charging for this but a ticket to enter is required. Town of Parker is holding something similar and charging \$30/car.
- Pat Dunahay – the Littleton Business Chamber thanks everyone at the City for caring about businesses. All the comments we heard were very positive about the Weekends on Main. We are meeting with Josh from Aspen Grove to see how we can help.
- Steve Cominsky – The City has done a great job helping the small businesses. Very impressive. Didn't make it to Weekends on Main but did drive by and down Alamo. Looked great. People enjoying themselves. Suggest doing it every weekend next summer. Thank you for grant, great timing and really appreciate it. We will open July 1. Permit approval process was very quick.
- Kathryn Roy - We have been working with the pastors from the 40 churches in the area regarding reopening. Has been very stressful for the pastors. Solid Grounds will not be reopening. Love Inc.'s retail store has one employee and 75 volunteers. Will we be eligible for the grant process?
- Mark Relph – Yes nonprofits are eligible for the CARES funding. Aurora is having challenges with food delivery (to those in need). Line of cars 25 blocks for the food pantry.
- Rick Bruno – PP program is still open. Closes June 30. Money is still available. Forgiveness phase transition will happen after June.
- Korri Lundock – I was on Main Street Friday and Saturday nights. Kudos to all. Great event. Hope they continue.
- Jerry Valdes – Let's hope for another good weather weekend. Would like us to consider closing earlier on Sunday. Congratulations to everyone involved. Businesses have made adjustment that are positive. Thank you to all.
- Pat Driscoll – Looking for next steps. My opinion we are winding down.
- Mark Relph – Let's meet in a month. That will allow us to do survey work, fine tune the program and we can report back.