



# Littleton RISE MEETING NOTES

August 24, 2020

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Attendees:

Council: Mayor Valdes, Council Member Driscoll

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

Business	Attendee
First Bank	Rick Bruno
Aspen Grove Lifestyle Shopping Center	Josh Kalkhorst
Littleton Business Chamber	Pat Dunahay
Love, Inc	Kathryn Roy

### Agenda

Item #	Item	Presenter
1.	Welcome & Review Agenda	Mayor Valdes & Council Member Driscoll
2.	Update on CARES Act	Mark Relph
3.	Weekends on Main Street Overview	Kelli Narde
4.	Phase 3 Business & Nonprofit Grants	Denise Stephens
5.	Participant Discussion	

### Update on CARES Act

- Mark Relph - Gave updates on the CARES Act including the improvements being made to the city buildings, the remodel of council chamber including filling in the pit, creating flexible/movable seating, creating multi-purpose meeting rooms much like a community center for our citizens, and adding security improvements to city buildings. We are trying to make it easier for the public to interact remotely with city staff.
- Mark Relph - Reported that discussions are being held at the Federal level for adding another phase of the CARES Act to address the loss of income for local government. He emphasized that the current funding received must be spent by the end of this year.

### Weekends on Main Street Overview (now called Dine on Main)

- Kelli Narde – Announced we were awarded a grant from Telluray Foundation for \$87,200 to fund an extension of Weekends on Main for 4 more weekends. She asked the Foundation if this grant

can be used to fund the two weekends left that HDLM was going to produce provided HDLM agrees. We are already funded with a CDOT grant for three weekends. Both grants could fund seven of the remaining weekends before the weather turns cold. We are still waiting for the contracts to be completed for both grants. City staff is trying to get permission from both grants to fund the weekends that HDLM has committed to funding.

- Council Member Patrick Driscoll – Commented the businesses want to continue the event even without the grant and asked if permission is needed to fund the August 21 weekend. He reported Greg Reinke stated the event costs them \$2,500 to \$3,000 a weekend and all the grant may not be needed.
- Mark Relph – Wants to meet with HDLM this week to stretch the funds for as many weekends as possible and noted HDLM is offering a different level of service. The city wants to maximize the funds and it is important to meet with HDLM this week. He commented it would be a challenge to keep the event warm if it continues into October and emphasized the grants can only be used for the Weekends on Main events.
- Kelli Narde – CDOT will not pay for any retroactive expenses and will only pay for an extension of the program moving forward. The Telluray Foundation wants additional outreach to involve more businesses and they want to receive statistics on how many people attended the event to fund future events. The Telluray Foundation will consider funding Weekends on Main next year based on the metrics they receive.
- Council Member Patrick Driscoll – He asked if the city staff is taking over the Downtown event or if the merchants will continue to run the event. He commented that the merchants want to own their own chairs and tables. He suggested using the grants at Aspen Grove and SouthPark shopping centers.
- Mark Relph – When we received the CDOT grant, city staff committed to coordinating the Downtown event using the grant. When HDLM committed to keep the event operating after the CDOT funded weekends, the city committed to provide security and traffic control.
- Mark Relph – Emphasized the two grants received from CDOT and Telluray Foundation can only be used Downtown.
- Reid Betzing – He shared the details of the Dine on Main agreement with HDLM. The intent was for HDLM to apply for one of the city grants for funding assistance to continue the event.
- Kelli Narde – Attended Saturday afternoon and not many people attended at that time commenting the weather was still very hot and smoky from all the fires which may have kept visitors away.
- Council Member Patrick Driscoll – Asked if the event could be hosted in December if the weather is good. He also asked if the funds must be spent in 2020.
- Mark Relph – December events are possible if space heaters are provided. Using the Telluray Foundation grant takes away the financial pressure on HDLM immediately even though HDLM is prepared to fund another weekend.
- Kelli Narde – The CDOT grant must be used for specific dates. The Telluray Foundation intended for the grant to be spent this year.
- **Phase 3 Business and Nonprofit Grants**

- Denise Stephens – In the beginning Arapahoe County said they would give preference to the unincorporated areas when granting their portion of the fund allocation. Since Arapahoe County did not get many requests from other cities and Littleton marketed the grants, Littleton businesses have received more grants than any other city in Arapahoe County. Littleton City Council approved two allocations for the city grants. The Littleton CARES Business Recovery Grant received \$375,000 in recovery grants which was open for applications between August 11-17 along with the non-profit grants and 101 applications were received. The grants are approved for up to \$10,000 for each business interruption and up to \$20,000 for PPE and infrastructure improvements that are made to comply with safety requirements. The Littleton CARES Non-Profit Assistance grant for \$200,000 received 27 applications which will be reviewed. City staff will request that City Council reopen the application process if there are remaining funds to distribute.
- Mark Relph – He has been meeting with other city managers and Arapahoe County staff weekly and they decided the most effective assistance for nonprofits requesting food donations, rent assistance, or mortgage assistance would be administered by the County programs already in place. 17 Littleton residents were funded for rent/mortgage assistance and twice as many are awaiting assistance.
- Denise Stephens – If applicants do not qualify for either of the Littleton grants, they are referred to Arapahoe County for Human Services assistance or other resources.
- Kathryn Roy – She asked for clarification if the 27 residents received assistance individually instead of through a non-profit or business basis. The strategy of Love, Inc is to provide another option if other funding sources are not available.
- Mark Relph – Confirmed individual assistance was received. He noted the city was also receiving requests to address the homelessness issues and recognized the great need.
- Kelli Narde – Asked when the grant recipients will be announced.
- Denise Stephens – Hopes to announce the recipients by August 28 at the latest.
- **Group Discussion**
  - Josh Kalkhorst – Asked if there has been any discussion from Arapahoe County about what occupancy restrictions will be in place in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter at the local level.
  - Mark Relph – He noted that three weeks ago the COVID 19 count was exceeding marks established by the health department and the County resubmitted a plan to the state. We have been successful and have had a steady decline and it looks promising. His meeting later in the week should answer questions about occupancy.
  - Josh Kalkhorst – Most businesses are planning for no change but hoping for more relaxation during the holiday season. The retail businesses are trying to figure out accommodations for the winter months.
  - Reid Benzing – We are trending in the direction of higher occupation levels, but he cannot predict the outcome. Noted the biggest change so far was for businesses to stay open until 11:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 p.m.
  - Josh Kalkhorst – They have spent about \$35,000 in accommodations for the restaurants to convert their open space and plan to make more accommodations for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. He wants to prepare for winter and collaborate with the city with the steps involved in

putting up structures to accommodate outdoor seating and heating with short term variances.

- Reid Betzing – South Metro Fire District will have regulations to follow but city staff will assist in navigating their direction.
- Kathleen Osher – Discussion has already started, and city staff is hopeful we will have guidance for the process in about a week.
- Josh Kalkhorst – Businesses located throughout the city will need the information. In the last six weeks, spending has increased and most restaurants are back to pre-COVID numbers but there are a lot more costs involved with take-out food and delivery. They are waiting for the Alamo Drafthouse to announce when they will reopen. They are seeing positive interest in opening new space and new uses.
- Kelli Narde – She asked about the Apple Store and their policy of scheduling for an appointment to shop which disappointed shoppers.
- Josh Kalkhorst – Apple has taken a very cautious approach to letting customers in the store, but this is how they are reopening all their stores. If there are any opportunities for the shopping centers to take advantage of making physical improvements, it would be helpful to understand their options.
- Denise Stephens – Because of the financial restrictions, the revitalization grants are not available until 2021.
- Pat Dunahay – Gave an update from the Business Chamber. None of the normal events are being held but Angelo's and Carboy were named Businesses of the Year. He attended Weekends on Main on Friday which was normal. He is glad the streets are closed for safety. SouthPark has five new businesses and development is hopeful. The vacancy numbers are low in the city. The few businesses that have been for sale in Downtown have sold quickly as Downtown Littleton is still a valuable area. The Chamber is preparing for the holidays and wants to offer discounts when reservations for shopping are made. He would like assistance from the city with the promotion or giveaways.
- Mark Relph – He welcomes that conversation and that is exactly why we have Littleton RISE since it is so important to identify these issues in advance of the winter.
- Rick Bruno – The Banker's Association has asked for blanket forgiveness of all PPP loans under \$150,000 from Congress. He said there is support for round three of PPP funding, but they are waiting for congressional approval. His observation is that consumer loans are holding up and they have not seen a lot of stress on their credit portfolio. He commented that the real estate market is hot especially the residential market. Banking is seeing the migration to the suburbs for both housing and business offices.
- Kathleen Osher – She has been told the office market is the hottest seen in 15 years.
- Kathryn Roy – The challenges of school starting has added additional stresses along with the increased awareness and concerns for the homeless. Churches opening for severe weather is not occurring this year due to a lack of volunteers, but other sources of funding are available to provide affordable hotel rooms. She said that when Solid Grounds closed there is no longer a draw to that shopping center. Loving, Inc is still distributing a lot of diapers and they would love to help find resources for those in need by calling 303-794-LOVE. They have drivers volunteering to run essential errands and

taking people to doctor appointments. Other non-profits are having the same issues with volunteers not returning yet.

- Kelli Narde – Asked for a list of the services they provide to publish in the Littleton Report Online. She asked about Solid Grounds closing.
- Kathryn Roy – Explained that Solid Grounds has not been open since March which has hurt them. The coffee shop was operated by the South Fellowship Church and it was not turning a profit. They are hoping investors would like to operate the coffee shop.
- Denise Stephens – Asked for the same information shared with Kelli to share.
- Mayor Valdes – Turned meeting over to Kathleen Osher.
- Council Member Patrick Driscoll – Thanked everyone for attending.
- Kathleen Osher – She will share information with Pat Dunahay and Josh Kalkhorst from Community Development staff to start strategizing and start vetting the information. She thanked everyone for attending and will let everyone know when the next meeting will be scheduled.