



MAYOR'S ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE JUNE 10, 2021
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The following represents the agenda items that were discussed during the regular meeting on Thursday, June 10th at 4 p.m. in the Basement Conference Room at City Hall, Abilene, Texas.

Members present were Mandy Schuman, Cindy Frazier, Katherine Beeman, JR Cochran, Steve Davis, and Ian Nickerson, Chair. Absent was Jeff Ronquillo.

City Staff present were Mayor Anthony Williams, Mr. Michael Rice, Mr. Mike Warrix, Ms. Kelley Messer, Ms. Shawna Atkinson, Ms. Cheryl Sawyers, Mr. Richard Rodgers, and Ms. Melissa Farr (Recording). Also in attendance were Chief Marcus Dudley, Doug Wrenn, and Gerald Moran from the Abilene Police Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Cochran moved to **approve** the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 27, 2021. Ms. Schuman seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES: Schuman, Frazier, Beeman, Cochran, Davis, Nickerson

NAYS: None

AGENDA ITEMS

Study and Review Options to Create a Downtown Entertainment and Cultural District

This item was not specifically addressed. Two representatives were present to participate in a question and answer session, which encompassed this topic.

Address Land Development Regulations that Limit or Prohibit Private Developers' Efforts to Revitalize the District

This item was not specifically addressed. Two representatives were present to participate in a question and answer session, which encompassed this topic.

Discussion and Possible Action on Land Development Use and Regulations with Representatives from Community Agencies

Chief of Police, Marcus Dudley, attended the meeting to address any questions regarding law enforcement and crime stats in the downtown area. He shared his enthusiasm with expanding the downtown area. Doug Wrenn and Gerald Moran also joined the chief at this meeting.

He began by providing the crime statistics from 2017 to May 2021. These statistics included aggravated assault, burglary, burglary from motor vehicles, motor vehicle theft, robbery, rape, shoplifting, and theft.

Chief Dudley also presented information related to public intoxication in 2019 and 2020. Traffic stops play a major role in these statistics, as someone could be intoxicated in another part of the city, but stopped in the Entertainment District boundaries. This is also the same for drug violations. Additionally, some of the offenders had repeat incidents in the District.

Gerald Moran presented some of the business permitting rules. Businesses are subject to the 51% Rule with TABC, which means that bars are required to post 51% signs regarding the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption. Some of the key points he made were:

- It is not illegal to consume alcohol in public, however it is always subject to P.C. 42.08 Public Intoxication laws.
- Sales of alcohol to go are based on a business' specific permit such as mixed drinks, beer, wine, or combination thereof.
- Alcohol to go is now enacted into law as of May 13, 2021, but it must be accompanied with a food order.

- Alcoholic beverages to go such as Eskimo Hut is heat sealed in a container and must be consumed off premise (based off permit).

After Chief Dudley offered his presentation, representatives of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) were available via conference call to answer questions.

Future Agenda Items

Task Force members requested additional clarification from TABC. They are also interested in discussing urban green space, art requirements for the district, and parking. Additionally, they would like to hear from Mr. Nick Watts, who serves as the City's historic preservation officer.

Discuss Future Meeting Dates

Members would like to hold the next meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 2 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Beeman seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Ian Nickerson (Chair)