



**MAYOR'S ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE      September 16, 2021**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The following represents the agenda items that were discussed during the regular meeting on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the Basement Conference Room at City Hall, Abilene, Texas.

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

City Staff present were Mr. Michael Rice, Mr. Trent Dietz, Ms. Cheryl Sawyers, and Ms. Melissa Farr (Recording).

Others present were members of the Abilene Downtown Association (ADA) Ms. Ky Kasselmann and Ms. Allison Carroll, as well as Ms. Diane Leggett.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Beeman moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on September 9, 2021. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**NAYS: None**

## AGENDA ITEMS

### a. Study and Review Options to Create a Downtown Entertainment District

Mr. Rice shared the draft presentation to members for their comments, questions, and recommendations. After discussion took place, it was concluded that **safety, a family-friendly environment, sanitation services, the inclusion of arts and culture, and the need for a point of contact as and education and coordination provider** are the main areas to be addressed.

Ms. Frazier provided a brief synopsis of a report, which was prepared by Ms. Frazier and Ms. Schuman. The report was provided to everyone present as a handout.

The recommendations suggested in their report were as follows:

1. Reinvest in downtown Abilene and elevate the economy by creating an entertainment district with guidelines for public health and safety.
2. Develop and enforce practices that prevent the overservice of alcohol.
3. Limit the number of establishments that sell alcohol within the proposed district.

Ms. Diane Leggett, managing partner of Under One Roof, expressed her disappointment with the Task Force and City Staff, as she was unaware of the specific charge for the group. She proclaimed her adoration for the City of Abilene and its downtown area, and sees the formation of this group as an "opportunity" to fulfill visions and dreams for the community.

Mr. Cochran made the motion to **recommend** the future exploration and creation of an economic development group who will focus on the five main areas of interest (in bold) discussed above. Ms. Frazier seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**NAYS: None**

Mr. Cochran moved to remove and rescind the approval of established boundaries for the District. As no one seconded, the motion **failed**.

Ms. Frazier made the motion to **recommend** the extension of the boundaries set for the District to include both sides of Hickory and Orange Streets from N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the railroad tracks. Ms. Beeman seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**NAYS: None**

- b. Address Land Development Regulations That Limit or Prohibit Private Developer's Efforts to Revitalize the District

This item was not discussed.

- c. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on Land Development Use and Regulations

This item was not discussed.

**Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Rice will prepare a revised presentation to include the recommendations from this meeting for possible vote to approve and forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

**Discuss Future Meeting Dates**

Members would like to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Ian Nickerson (Chair)

