

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
STATE STREET SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting Details:

October 26, 2020

11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via GoToWebinar

Committee Members Present - Chair Meagan Harmon, Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Sneddon, and Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez

City Staff Present: Jason Harris (Economic Development Mgr.); Rob Dayton (Transportation & Parking Mgr.), Nina Johnson (Sr. Assistant to the City Administrator); Holly Perea (Assistant to the Mayor & Council)

AGENDA

1. Public Comment

Two members of the public spoke. Topics included the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce's appreciation of the Subcommittee's outreach efforts; support for State Street enhancements; encouragement for businesses to begin winterizing outdoor dining spaces; a recommendation for website improvements to increase public access to meetings; and a suggestion to note the Subcommittee's name change on the webpage.

2. Review and Approve Minutes

Recommendation by Jason Harris: Adopt the Minutes from the meeting held September 14, 2020.

Action: Motion by Gutierrez to approve the Minutes as presented. Seconded by Sneddon. Item passed 3-0.

Public Comment: None

3. Update on Future of State Street Visioning Process

Staff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the visioning outreach process. Jason Harris explained that he and Rob Dayton are more than halfway through conducting focus group sessions, out of which themes are emerging. Harris outlined the process, the schedule, and the public survey outreach.

Sneddon noted that the presentation should be available to the public, confirmed that the Subcommittee would have an opportunity to review the public survey before its release, and noted that the project schedule assumes Council consensus on a redesign of State Street.

Gutierrez wanted to know if the survey could be translated into additional languages, beyond English and Spanish, to increase public outreach.

Chair Harmon suggested the staff presentation be a part of the survey in some way.

Public Comment: One member of the public spoke suggesting that a notice about the public survey should be included in the electric bill.

4. Update on State Street Management

Staff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the City's management of State Street conditions. Jason Harris discussed recent actions by Council and staff to address the interim conditions on State Street. He mentioned guidelines for doing business in winter, inspections, and insurance requirements. He provided information on the electric bike share program, bike safety discussions, and the Promenade Market. Rob Dayton spoke about the scope of street cleaning and maintenance efforts along State Street.

Sneddon voiced appreciation for calling the changes "experimental," a term that describes the City's attempt to be nimble and open to adjustments. She asked how the Promenade Market would operate, and Harris clarified it is expected to operate similarly to the Farmer's Market.

Gutierrez wanted to confirm the boundaries of the State Street management and enhancement services. Dayton confirmed the boundaries from Cabrillo to Victoria streets, with additional response between Victoria and Sola.

Chair Harmon asked for a detailed description of the State Street cleaning services. Dayton confirmed the following services are being used: janitorial service, street sweepers, power washers, a landscape crew, and staff stationed downtown to address immediate cleaning issues such as trash pick-up and graffiti.

Public Comment: Three members of the public spoke. Topics included interest in the State Street enhancements; bike safety education and outreach efforts with Councilmember Gutierrez; appreciation of the guidelines clarifying the requirement for a six-foot minimum path of travel on the sidewalk; concern on the lack of public seating; and the need for a downtown shuttle.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at noon.