

# DOWNTOWN FRESNO PARTNERSHIP

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## Clean & Green Committee

April 5, 2023  
8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Downtown Fresno Partnership  
845 Fulton Street

### MINUTES

- **Present:** Christian Horta, Anthony Nicacio, Melissa Almaguer, Lupe Perez, Jamie Sandoval
- **Staff:** Elliott Balch, Brian Kelly, Lara Agulian, Gloria Valdovinos, Luke True
- **Public:** Jordan Sanchez

**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 8:35am.

**II. CEO Introduction** – This is Balch’s first committee meeting as the CEO of DFP. He senses a renewed desire to work together to get things going. We will be working to scale up some of what we work on, such as infrastructure and financing that everyone can market. Getting public restrooms that are convenient and childcare within downtown is part of that. We want to do this in a sustainable way and more proactively manage the public space. We do have a large downtown that is not fully walkable. We should work to have a better visitor experience which may include electronic mobility such as scooters and bikes. There is money out there specifically for these kinds of things. Balch is going to work toward and advocate for these things.

The City Youth Job Corps Program will help us with clean and green initiatives. This is a partnership between DFP and The City of Fresno and will be touched on more later in this meeting. We can get things done when we come together and advocate as a positive voice, such as working with Almaguer for parking updates. We are the ones who are here everyday, and we have a continued commitment to downtown

Perez is looking forward to working together to get things resolved.

### III. Clean

- a. Ambassador Report/Garbage** – Kelly reported that the ambassadors are staying consistent with removing smaller graffiti that are accessible and working with the graffiti team when needed. Nora Monaco worked with Mid Valley to get a trash compactor installed for her properties and tenants in the Brewery District. The graffiti team have already put one layer of graffiti protective coating on the compactor and want to add another layer. It would be nice if the graffiti team could find a permanent solution to reaching the higher up graffiti that is not being removed as of now. Perez asked about the graffiti team process and Kelly explained that they are great at responding to standard graffiti, but those that are high up on buildings and hard to get to, such as on the inside of building windows, the team is unable to reach. Graffiti is everywhere from abandoned buildings to active businesses. DFP is having a meeting with the Police Department on April 12th. We will mention that the high up graffiti signals to others that those building roofs are accessible, which has caused break ins. DFP would help with the removal of hard-to-reach graffiti in any way that we can. Balch mentioned that the PD presence is not what we expect. He will ask about staffing and what processes are in place for trespassing and other crimes. The PD meeting will be at the Southwest office at 11:45am. Kelly said that ambassadors will keep documenting and following up on hard-to-reach graffiti.

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- b. **Garbage/Mid Valley** – Kelly reported that more lids of dumpsters are being forced open. Mid Valley has been updated on which work orders need to go in.

For ArtHop this month, DFP has asked Mas Fresno to get a 3-yard locking dumpster from Mid Valley with a Thursday drop-off and Friday pick-up to place in their alley. The ambassadors typically pick up the bags of trash and bring them to our dumpster, but we do not have a golf cart this time. We will still help with the collection of the trash but would like somewhere close to dump it. We do not want them using their neighbor's dumpsters. They have complaints from neighboring businesses about vendors parking in spots designated for the neighboring businesses. This has been brought to Mas' attention as well. Last month, Mas did get a port-a-potty for ArtHop, which we had been requesting for a while. That was great to see. Perez would like to have a meeting with Mas and Balch to talk about respecting the plaza and the art along with the upcoming construction of the plaza. She asked what the procedure was for Mas using Mariposa Plaza. Mas turned the application in to the City at the beginning of the year with all the dates they will be using the plaza. They have the permits for those and use DFP insurance.

It will be easier for DFP to assist in the trash pick-up at the Kern Plaza ArtHop activation as it is closer to the office. We have asked that organizer to start providing port-a-potties as well. He has been sending anyone who asks to Tioga to use their restrooms. No one should be sending people to brick-and-mortars just for restroom purposes. The organizer, Dakari Cleveland is appreciated, but we do have to work with him to get things more streamlined. Balch wants to meet with him and David Rodriguez from the City to see what the standards are for throwing events seeing as they use DFP insurance. Perez also mentioned that no vehicles, such as food trucks should be parked on sidewalks or plazas. We know Cleveland usually pays for meters to be bagged so the food trucks park in those parking spots.

Street cans will be harder for ambassadors to service without a golf cart, but it is getting done. Perez will see if Public Works can help for the time being. The cans in front of the Californian have been better since DFP put signs out there about the dumping and after having conversations with the Californian and the City. Kelly has talked to the PARCs department as it seems that they oversee repairing the receptacles for some of the street cans downtown.

Horta talked about the trash compactor Mid Valley installed for Monaco. It is in the Pep Boys building parking lot. As of now, four addresses will be using it, but the total is nine properties. It is secured and has key card activation. Hopefully this can be a solution and we will not have as many dumpsters in the allies being moved around or burnt lids to deal with. Balch asked that if the compactors are the solution and how we get this to work downtown with multiple property owners. It is possible that DFP can get the compactors and businesses can opt in or out of using them. Perez said that the mayor and others at the City are supportive of the compactors, but it comes down to cost and locations. She is willing to discuss past conversations about this with Balch. Mid Valley is also willing to work with DFP. Mid Valley have compactors at other shopping centers with multiple merchants, so they do operate more of these. Kelly mentioned that with the visuals of Monaco's compactor, we can host a presentation to show the other

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merchants downtown how to use it and the benefits. Horta mentioned that a new law will be taking effect in California, SB 1826, by the end of this year. This will make it so that every business must have three receptacles being trash, recycle, and organic waste. This additional receptacle will add more dumpsters in the allies, especially where there are restaurants. Exceptions will only be given by filling out a waiver to the City citing that a business does not produce organic waste. Kelly asked if metal lids were still able to be used on the current dumpsters. Horta said they are a liability and Mid Valley does not produce or carry them anymore. Horta did mention that it was a pleasure to meet Balch. Anthony Nicacio is the supervisor of the downtown area at Mid Valley and he comes here each week. He also has an employee come out and touch up the graffiti on the dumpsters once a week. Him and Kelly are always in communication. DFP also appreciates what they do for us.

- c. **City Youth Job Corps Program Ambassadors** – Kelly and the ambassadors had a meeting for this program on April 4. Ten have been hired for the program with more to come. For most of them, this will be their first or second job. They will be City employees, but DFP will be training them in the clean, green, and hospitality ambassador duties. The City will be providing the items they need to get the job done while DFP will show them how and where to use them. They will be assisting with trash pick-up and graffiti removal. We will also encourage them to use FresGo, but this is not a requirement of the job as they will have to use their personal phones. They will be here on event nights so there will be more ambassador presence, which can translate to security and hospitality. The supervisor, Virginia, has previous experience with FAX and working outdoors so we are excited to work with her. As of now, we are finalizing the day-to-day tasks for them and figuring out how to let the public know that they are here. There is funding for this program for a couple of years, so we are working hard to make it successful.

#### IV. Green Updates

- a. **Beautify Fresno** – Sandoval filled in for Mark Standriff for this meeting. The Great American Clean Up is on Saturday, April 22 from 8-10am, with an after party at the H Street Lot downtown from 12-1:30pm. Out of the 17 areas, plus a few private areas, two will be in downtown. One will have its hub at the H Street Lot and Beautify Fresno is partnering with DFP on this one. The other will be the CRMC area. There are about 150 volunteers signed up for each downtown area and those sign ups are filled. DFP will assist in giving out equipment, T-shirts, and wristbands. The wristbands will get them into the after party where there will be a DJ, food trucks by Fresno Street Eats, vendors with goodie bags, and speeches by the Mayor and other speakers. There will be a roll off dumpster on sight from Caglia.

The Adult Offender Program is still taking place in Chinatown. They clean up Chinatown from 6am to 2pm and do sometimes come into downtown if they have time. They also always have a supervisor with them. Requests are in to make this a permanent program and create more shifts and supervisors, even on the weekends.

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Sandoval also mentioned the cardboard, collapsible trash cans that they put out at events such as the after parties for the big clean up events. They are looking to get some made with Mid Valley, which will include sponsor and logos on it. They will be reusing these for all popups and are currently looking for sponsors. Along with that, the following big clean-up event after April 22 will be the Mayor's clean up event in August.

- b. **Planter Program** – Valdovinos updated us on the Planter Program. Only one business recipient met the insurance requirements from the City, being CMAC. Because of this, Erika from the City is trying to find a workaround to get these planters moved. There may be a case where the City moves them under their own insurance, but this would mean that the City would have to paint them, which takes away one of the aspects of the program. Perez will work with Erika to see what can be done as Perez wants community involvement in the painting of the planters.
- V. **Parking Report** – Almaguer reported that the warnings being given out downtown have now also been translated to Spanish. There has been an uptick in vandalism to meters. She is working on a preventative maintenance program. They are also working on installing the stickers on meters with information in both English and Spanish along with info and the number for the ParkMobile app. With nicer weather coming, we may see more vandalism in the garages, such as the DFP golf cart being stolen. Almaguer has requested a security guard for each garage. If that happens, all EV chargers can be repaired along with their cabinets. There are four in the Promenade Lot that are opened at 7am and closed at 6pm, but with a guard they could be kept open 24/7 with access granted by an app. There will be more staff on event nights, and they are working to make sure the meters are charging the accurate amount.

Agulian asked about the signs on the meters on Fulton St in front of Warnors. They state that there is no parking on the first Thursdays of the month from 2pm to midnight. This was put up when DFP was still closing the street there for ArtHop. Since we are not doing that anymore, those signs are no longer accurate. Almaguer had gotten those put up so they the meters would not have to be bagged each time and so that ugly, paper signs would not have to be used. Almaguer and Perez agreed that they can be removed or moved to a different location. DFP will contact those who organize ArtHop on that street and see what they would like to see before we request to have those signs moved. Since there is no street closure, those who do park in the open spots will not be ticketed as of now.

Perez has heard parking complaints from businesses for their employees and wants to keep this conversation active. Valdovinos said that DFP is working on a parking survey to see what businesses are interested in, in terms of solutions. Full Circle and Tioga are both interested in about 25 parking permits for their staff. Clark Brothers construction would also be interested as they have even gone to the City Manager with their parking complaints. Balch noticed only a soft support from the Spanish merchants in the area, thinking that a one year commitment for a permit may be too long. Almaguer will look at contract again to see if it can be terminated before the year is up so it is almost like a month-to-month basis. She will also get data to see what can be offered.

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Parking will be getting a new security company after putting in a 30 day notice with CIS Security. St. George Security will begin in May. Kelly would like to have a meeting with parking, the new security company, and the downtown overnight security, Cen Cal, to make sure everyone is on the same page. It seems that the general public knows our security schedule now and know when to hit our weak points to get away with things.

- VI. **Security Report** – This has mostly been covered in the other agenda items. We are hoping to get more than from PD after the DFP meeting with them. So far it feels that even what is promised in the Baseline Services are not being met. Kelly asked if it would be possible to get security cameras in garages. Almaguer has already put in a request for putting in video cameras. St. George Security will have the same amount security that CIS provided along with security for the Underground Garage.
- VII. **Comments** – Perez mentioned that the parking elevators in the Spiral Garage where not working during FresYes Fest. Usually the elevators are off on the weekends, but this needs to be reconsidered as well. DFP has a FresYes Fest follow up meeting tomorrow, April 6. They did lack on hospitality and we should include David Rodriguez in these.
- VIII. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:57am.