

DOWNTOWN FRESNO PARTNERSHIP

Clean & Green Committee

August 2, 2023
8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Downtown Fresno Partnership
845 Fulton Street

MINUTES

- **Present:** Christian Horta, Mark Standriff, Lupe Perez, Johnathan Morris, Jeffery Maxies
- **Staff:** Elliott Balch, Brian Kelly, Lara Agulian
- **Public:**

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 8:36am.

II. Clean

- a. **Ambassador Report/Garbage** – Kelly reported that there has been a good amount of graffiti. He spoke with Todd, who is on the graffiti team at the City, at Todd mentioned that they are short on staff and equipment at this time. The ambassadors will do what they can to help fill that gap and keep removing the smaller pieces. Balch was in an administration meeting at the City where the delays of removing high up graffiti were discussed. Scott Moser at the City is looking into this. Perez remembers it being said that if the graffiti is too high, property owners will have to take care of removal themselves. The City could rent the equipment, but they are still looking into costs and would want to remove more than one each time they rent. Ambassadors will continue to record the high up graffiti they see so we have those records when the time comes to remove them. With our PBID data software, PBID Manager, we can catalog the graffiti and coordinate with property owners.

More street cans are being tampered with. The cans have been removed from their receptacles and even detached from the chains that tie them to their receptacles. Dumpster tampering is still high as well. On August 16, we are having a community meeting, a Down-Town Hall, with a main focus being solid waste. We will talk about compactors and gauge the communities' thoughts. With ArtHop being tomorrow, August 3, there will be an emphasis on clean up the days after. We will see if the YJCP ambassadors will be able to help with this clean up. The Beautify Fresno event on Saturday will help in these efforts as well.

We have been spreading the word about the community meeting on August 16 and will keep doing so leading up to the meeting. We really want a solid turn out. Fulton Street Party will be on August 26 from 4-11pm. There is a Fresno Grizzlies home game that day as well so we will see if the YJCP ambassadors can help with this event as well.

We have seen an increase in unhoused peoples in downtown, especially around the Kern Plaza area. They have been using the fountains to bathe and cool down. They have been in groups of about 10-15. They might not be sleeping there though and security reports do not reflect their presence. Ambassadors will carve out time to delve deeper in the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care membership to see what that offers. We have been giving out information on City cooling centers and the shower trailers. We have also been sending referrals to Poverello House. Perez asked if there is any other organization that has been doing outreach. As of now, there is no one. Gracebound Church has been running the shower and restroom trailers, which are now also mobile medical clinics. Perez will look into who comes out to do the outreach needed for the

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unhoused. Balch has also been reaching out to the County see what mental health and other services they have. Kelly mentioned that we may see some hot spots now that 7/11 has closed. There is a hot spot on Van Ness in front of the Welbe building and around Arte Americas. The cans along Van Ness have been getting overfilled and ambassadors are working to keep up with those. Perez asked what services Welbe Health offers, but it sounds like they are similar to PACE and do not necessarily offer services to the unhoused.

- b. **Garbage/Mid Valley** – Balch mentioned that we are gauging compactor opportunity and desire. Mayor Dyer asked us to firm up costs. It would be about \$90,000 for two compactors similar to the ones in the Brewery District. There are other downtowns that use compactors in the way we are attempting. Now, research is being done on who, which companies, can bid and how it would work if they are not Mid Valley compactors. Enabling ordinance does need to be done as well. It is a great idea, but it is not easy. Perez is meeting with Public Utilities about this and will let us know what they discuss. We will be talking about this during the Down-Town Hall and it is the most timely item. Mid Valley will also discuss SB 1383. The Recycling Manager at Mid Valley will be the one speaking. Perez asked for an agenda to make sure the right people from the City are there. A draft will be sent to her after this meeting, but it is basically solid waste, SB 1383, PD update, DFP update, Fresno Housing, High Speed Rail, and Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce. Perez suggested bringing in the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation as well. Balch will reach out. Agulian will send out the official invites to this committee after the meeting. Councilmember Arias has also tentatively accepted the invitation to attend.
- c. **City Youth Job Corps Program Ambassadors RFP** – This is still outstanding.

III. Green Updates

- a. **Beautify Fresno** – The Mayor's Citywide Community Cleanup is this Saturday, August 5. There are four major locations throughout Fresno with the biggest being the Downtown Mural District area. The check will be at the Cultural Arts Park and there will be parking and bathrooms at Cornerstone Church. The other locations are Manchester, Roeding Park, and Fresno Pacific with 500 volunteers between all the locations. There are another 700 volunteers who have chosen their own areas. There will be approximately 80 locations. This is all an increase from last year. Every participant will get a tie-dye T-shirt with an after party at Manchester Mall including food trucks, a DJ, and goodies. There is construction on the Shields street side of the Manchester parking lot so things for the afterparty have had to shift a bit, but it should all be good now. The clean up will go from 8-10am with the afterparty from 10am-12pm. It will be about 100 degrees that day so it shouldn't be too bad. Police will be around in the areas. There will be about 150 volunteers for Downtown. The main things as always will be to have everyone sign the waiver from the QR code provided. Once volunteers return from their shift, they will get a wristband for the afterparty and a QR code to get their free tickets to the Grizzlies game that night. We would like to use the YCJP ambassadors to help with the check in and check out process. The trash bags will be piled the corner of park intersection so that Beautify Fresno drivers can pick them up. If our ambassadors have access to their golf cart, they

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can help getting all the bags to one area, if not, we just have to let the drivers know where any bags have been left. Perez mentioned that the CMAC parking lot is also owned by the City so we can also direct people to park there if needed. Last year, a volunteer got a towed for parking in an alley. Beautify Fresno took care of it, but we do not want that kind of situation to happen again. Mid Valley has been a great help and they will have a roll off and port a potties at Manchester.

Standriff mentioned that Kelly had reached out to him asking about cardboard trash bins that could be used for each ArtHop to try to minimize trash in the streets. Standriff talked to Mid Valley about this and they are donating 1,000 bins. He will share 100 with us to start that DFP will maintain and collect. They were just ordered last week so we hope to get them and use them soon.

Beautify Fresno has also been expanding the educational aspect of their program and the cleanups. They are educating on the importance of a clean environment and volunteering. Beautify murals will be going up in partnership with the Fresno Arts Council. They are also working on a pilot program to art wrap utility boxes to help beautify them. A wrap is easier to maintain than painting them as it is easy to wipe off graffiti and rewrap if it gets scratched up. Standriff is asking where would be a manageable place to start. Perez should have a map of the boxes that she will share. We may have to work with PG&E as they own the boxes.

Kelly mentioned here that he has talked to an event organizer and promoter downtown who has been gluing and taping posters on poles and other things downtown. He asked them to stop using the glue and tape. They switched to stapling posters for a while, but have gone back to using sticky things. They have even been putting them higher up to make it harder to reach to remove. Kelly has reached out again on social media. He let them know that DFP would help them promote the downtown events and that they don't have to glue the posters. There is a municipal code about this and posters should not be put up in this way.

- b. **Planter Program** – Georgianne at the City is reviewing the liability of moving the planters so we are still waiting on this.

- IV. **Security Report** – Maxies mentioned that the main guard from St. George Security is on vacation and will be back next week. There has been an uptick in graffiti at the garages too, especially Congo Garage. The Merced Garage lobby was trashed, but ACE Parking has since cleaned it. One elevator is down currently at Convention Center, but someone is working on fixing it today. Perez asked for the cleaning schedule of the garages. It is Monday to Friday from 6am to 6pm. On the weekends, they do pre or post events depending on the situation. Kelly asked if it is possible to schedule a cleaning for August 26 before Fulton Street Party and then after as well. This would be for Congo and Spiral garages.

Last week, the elevators in the Spiral garage were turned off at 9:30pm after a big, sold-out event. Kelly called St. George as he was in the area and they were able to get it on. We just want to relay

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the message that for event days, the elevators should not be turned off and security should be keeping an eye on it. Maxies mentioned that the elevators are turned on and off with a key and that all happens manually. They also have an extra security guard from Fridays to Sundays for Spiral and the Underground garages that area on from 8pm to 4am. Perez asked how late the parking attendants stay in the booth on event days. Maxies answered that for Grizzlies games, they stay about 15 minutes after the game starts. For big concert events they stay an extra hour or two until the headliners come on. They do also add additional guards for events. The normal patrol is a guard 24/7.

As part of security, Agulian mentioned that Cen Cal reported a fire at the back door of the Crest Theatre last night.

V. **Comments** –

VI. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:39am.