

DOWNTOWN FRESNO PARTNERSHIP

Clean & Green Committee

October 5, 2022
8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Downtown Fresno Partnership
845 Fulton Street

MINUTES

- **Present:** Cassey James, Daniel Dorris, Christian Horta, Melissa Almaguer, Jeff Maxies, Lupe Perez, Jamie Sandoval
- **Staff:** Jimmy Cerracchio, Brian Kelly, Lara Agulian
- **Public:**

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 8:32am.

II. Clean

- a. Ambassador Report/Garbage** – There have been a lot of requests for pressure washing by different people and businesses. There should be at least a discussion of a regular pressure washing schedule, but the main issue being seen is the need to clean human waste. There has been an increase in human waste around buildings and that needs to be taken care of. There has also been an increase in dead animals around downtown. Kelley has called 311 for this and they have connected him to Fresno Humane, but the process is slow. Kelley has also seen an increase in the tampering of signs, such as parking and one-way signs. There have been at least six in the last month and these will need to be fixed or replaced.

Mid Valley has been helping with street cans on Fridays. The Californian residents have been stuffing full bags of trash into the street cans, which is not what they are meant for. Ambassadors have been emptying those cans at least once a day, but they are trying to work with the Californian to correct the issue and get residents to use the dumpster. There has been more forced-open lids and rummaging through dumpsters. Ambassadors try to keep up with these and check on them every morning. Perez asked about the dumpsters behind Los Panchos as there always seems to be litter around it and DFP will check on it. Horta from Mid Valley would like to be included in meetings if there are any changes with events such as ArtHop.

Cerracchio mentioned to Perez that DFP does not have the baseline services from the City. This will be important for the power washing and keeping downtown clean. Perez is speaking with Greg Barfield soon and will get that over to us. Perez wants to schedule a walkthrough of downtown with Brian Russell and DFP and wants to make this monthly to keep up with the needs of downtown.

III. Green Updates

- a. Beautify Fresno** – Sandoval filled in for Standriff in this meeting. He will report what was discussed back to Standriff. There is Fresno Youth Service Day coming up November 5. It is another citywide clean up event, but more geared towards K-12 ages including schools and clubs. There may be some who choose downtown as their clean up spot. Beautify Fresno might also participate in the Central Valley Veterans Day Parade and the Christmas Parade.

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- b. **Planter Program** – There have been some issues with insurance for some of the planters. Perez and James will follow up with Erica for any updates on solutions. Jazzmine is no longer with DFP but can give us her updates next week. There may have been some planters approved, but the follow up with Erica will give us answers.
 - c. **Painting of Historic Light Poles** – James wanted to follow up on this subject after it was brought up by a board member in our last meeting. She wanted to know if it is possible to do this. Perez said we would have to sit down with Public Works to see if they would be open to it. We would have to consider the costs of the paint, upkeep, and how easy the upkeep would be once they poles get graffitied. Cerracchio brought up the idea of wrapping the poles, though we would have to check if that is possible. James wanted to just start the conversation in this meeting.
- IV. Parking Report** – Almaguer first spoke on the warning notices that began October 1st. Any first-time parking offender has been given a warning instead of a ticket. The warning comes with a flier that explains how to pay for parking at meters. There is also a map on the back with restaurants downtown listed. The digital copy of the map was incorrect, but the printed copies are correct.

25 EV charging stations have been repaired around the city, including in downtown. Some meters downtown were bagged for each ArtHop, but the bagging was being done early, hurting the parking for customers. The Parking Department has ordered real signage that will be up year-round stating that no parking is allowed on the first Thursday of the month for certain times. This will be clearer for the public.

Almaguer also will have a bimonthly parking newsletter on events and other parking updates. James asked for updates on the stickers for the meters. Almaguer said that she is still working on them. She has to go through three different vendors to get them made with the correct adhesive, correct information, and correct translations into languages such as Spanish. Kelley asked if it was possible to get the warning flier translated to Spanish as well as he sees the need for that. Almaguer will look into that. Perez stated that it would be helpful to have the businesses themselves advertise about the parking downtown. Kelley said that ambassadors would be happy to help with that and go the businesses in person. Perez also asked if we could put parking information in the DFP Kiosk. The kiosk was recently fixed in June, but it has been vandalized again with broken plexi glass and locks. DFP is going to repair it one more time and get information in there, hoping that will deter vandalism. If we get Almaguer the information we would like to see in the kiosk, her team can create signage to go in the kiosk. James mentioned that we can talk to Warnors and see if they would put up parking signage in there displays and Cerracchio mentioned other businesses like Tioga that we can ask.

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- V. Security Report** – Cerraccho gave the Security report. There has been a decrease in trespassing in the garages. There has been an increase in sign vandalism, graffiti, and lights being out. The EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center did post that they are changing their hours of operations due to safety concerns. DFP checked with PD, but there have been no incidents there. Cerracchio checked with the owner of the building and he did state that EOC stopped their contract with CIS and may have changed their hours due to not having any security.

The Brewery District has been good with no incidents. ArtHop was rowdier than usual in the summer months with fights, but PD is aware, and they do patrol heavily on those nights. We are hoping that ABC controls the alcohol sold on the street for next month. Perez stated that the City does not want to give citations, but instead wants to educate and give notices. ABC did catch a few people selling alcohol during the last ArtHop. Now the City wants to get the Street Vendor Association involved so that they can spread the education of the City laws. Alcohol does remain the biggest issue.

- VI. Comments** – Cerracchio noticed that some of the store fronts have been cleaned and asked Perez if the City did start enforcing that. She said that she is not aware if they have started enforcing but did not think so. She is happy to hear it is clean though.

Perez brought up a construction company located near Chukchansi Park. The employees have had a hard time parking their cars and work trucks in downtown. They have a deal with Nora Monaco and the Grizzlies to use some of their lots but are not happy doing that as they have to walk a bit to their cars. The owner has a perception that downtown is unsafe and fears for employees. He sees the unhoused outside his business. Perez wants to know how to change that perception. Cerracchio mentioned that that area may clean up once the City is finished tearing down Terrance's buildings.

- VII. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:24am.