

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIRTUAL WORK SESSION
MARCH 16, 2021**

Mayor Richardson called the March 16, 2021 virtual work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present	
Mayor	Dan Richardson
Trustees	Lani Kitching
	Marty Silverstein
	Luis Yllanes
	Ben Bohmfalk
	Erica Sparhawk
	Heather Henry

Staff Present:

Town Manager	Jay Harrington
Town Clerk	Cathy Derby
Parks & Recreation Director	Eric Brendlinger
Police Chief	Kirk Wilson

DOWNTOWN SUMMER COVID ADAPTIONS

Jay stated that Trustee Sparhawk recently facilitated a meeting with some Main Street businesses where they discussed the possibility of closing Main Street at night to allow for street side dining (due to COVID restrictions). Mayor Richardson noted that the Board has received a lot of feedback on this issue.

Trustee Sparhawk remarked that no resolution will make everyone happy. The key points they discussed at the meeting include:

- Instead of decks they could use the Town's barriers
- Some of the restaurants/bars would like to open the streets for dining earlier in the season (currently decks open May 1)
- They discussed what time and how many nights per week should the street be closed
- Last year the hours/days were 4 pm – 10 pm Monday – Saturday – Public Works staff closed the streets and the Police Department opened the streets Mon – Friday and on Saturday the Police Department closed and opened the street
- Last year the dimension of the street dining space was 25 feet long, and 9 feet wide (into the street)

Mayor Richardson opened the discussion to public comment.

Lari Good, owner of Phat Thai, stated that at the meeting she thought they reached consensus, but in the last three days she has heard that people are not happy with the proposal. Trustee Sparhawk stated that no decisions were made at the meeting. People had thoughts after the meeting, or they weren't comfortable expressing their ideas at the meeting.

Renee Grossman, owner of HighQ, asked if there has been a discussion on not closing the entire block but instead closing the street where the restaurants are? Jay answered that closing a portion of the street would create traffic issues.

Trustee Yllanes stated that he supports mirroring last year's closure – it created vibrancy.

Aly Sanguily, owner of Batch, stated business was steady Tuesday – Saturday, Sunday they were closed, and Monday was extremely slow.

Trustee Henry suggested creating a Task Force similar to the Special Event Task Force. They could look at what works/doesn't work, make simple adjustments, and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Amy Charters, owner of Lulubelle, stated she left the meeting early and at the time no consensus had been reached. She would like there to be more parameters and make it equitable for all. It's crucial to set a timeline and hours and define a uniform size of the street space.

Jonathan Stokley, works at Coventure, spoke from a consumer standpoint. He visits the restaurants on weekdays, not weekends. The street closure creates ambiance unique to Carbondale. He suggested the Town keep the same framework as last year with minor adjustments.

Renee Grossman stated that the street closure takes parking away from the retailers and creates an inconvenience for their customers who then shop at more convenient stores. She asked the Board to consider creating some 20 minute parking spaces on the side streets.

Lari Good noted that the closure is temporary during the COVID pandemic. She asked the Board to consider closing the street six nights a week to maintain continuity. She asked if it would be possible to reserve customer parking for specific retailers.

Hilary Back, owner of Back to Balance, stated that parking and traffic are important for her business. Having the street closed is not effective. She suggested limiting the street closure to Friday and Saturday.

Ryan Sweeney, owner of the Brass Anvil, stated that the street closure started out of necessity for restaurants to survive during the pandemic. Businesses are making sacrifices so the restaurants can survive.

Lynn Kirchner, Amore Real Estate, stated that closing Main Street between 3rd and 4th Street affects other parts of Main Street. She asked visitors what they thought about the street closure and the response was that some found it inconvenient and confusing. She asked the Trustees to think about the businesses on the side streets that experience a parking problem. Also, it is important to have handicap access.

Aly Sanguily stated that they are open to diminishing the patio in the day and expanding it at night Tuesday – Saturday.

Jay stated that the restaurants have agreed that they will be responsible to putting up and taking down the barriers. Regarding parking, time limits works better than reserved customer parking for specific businesses because it creates an equity issue. Jay noted that if the rodeo is operational this summer, we will probably need to have traffic control on Main Street on Thursday nights.

Trustee Silverstein stated that the street closure started as a temporary measure because restaurants were being threatened with closure because people were not comfortable eating inside. He suggested the following compromise: close the street Wednesday – Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and make sure there is handicap parking.

The majority of the Board agreed with Trustee Silverstein's proposal to close the streets Wednesday – Saturday starting at 4:30 p.m. Handicap parking and short-term parking should be available on the side streets.

Mayor Richardson summarized the items that need to be addressed at the March 23rd meeting:

- Short Term Parking on 3rd and 4th Streets
- Wednesday – Saturday Night Closure (he acknowledged Trustee Yllanes suggested adding Tues nights) starting at 4:30
- Consider size of dining area 1, possibly 2 spaces
- Businesses are responsible for closure
- Handicap parking will not be incorporated in the closed area

RE-1 DISCUSSION ON TRACK REPLACEMENT

Jeff Gatlin of the Roaring Fork School District was present for the discussion.

Eric's memo explained that in 1993 a new track was installed at the Carbondale Middle School. The project was funded by the Town of Carbondale, the RE-1 School District and a GOCO grant. Since the Town of Carbondale was the qualifying grantee with GOCO an IGA was originally required in order to have the RE-1 School District as a grant partner. According to the IGA, the Town is responsible for 50% of the maintenance expenses. Significant upgrades were made to the track last year during COVID. The Town's share of the expense is \$97,500. Staff did not include this expense in the 2021 budget.

Jeff stated that RE-1 took advantage of pricing and timing (school was not in session due to COVID).

Trustee Bohmfalk asked Jay if staff is comfortable spending \$100,000 that has not been budgeted. Jay answered yes, it would come from the Recreation Sales & Use Tax Fund. We are having a strong financial year, hopefully it will continue, and we will make up for it. Trustee Bohmfalk asked if we can make it clear that it is a public facility. Jeff stated he would be happy to look in to promoting the use and possibly install more signs.

Trustee Yllanes noted that the Town paid to upgrade the dugouts. Jay responded yes, the Town will invoice the School District, but it is a fraction of the cost of the track upgrades.

CITIZEN ACADEMY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING UPDATE

Kirk explained that the Police Department has established a Citizens Academy. The purpose is to increase department transparency, connect with the community and answer questions. The Academy will meet for two hours once a week for five weeks. The Academy will be held (separately) in English and in Spanish. There will be a lengthy discussion followed by a question/answer session.

Discussion ensued and the following questions were asked/points made:

- How will you advertise? Sopris Sun, KDNK, social media, word or mouth – Can PR Studio help?
- Make it clear that it is a dialogue – not lecture oriented
- Possibly Rename “Citizen Academy”
- Will there be a moderator or is the Chief the moderator? The Chief will be at ever session
- Police want to bust myths – they expect heated questions

- The Police Department is very diverse – they want the public to see the human side of the officers
- What does the Police Department hope to accomplish? Establish a rapport with the community, hear the community's interests and concerns, showcase officers
- Messaging is important – make sure it doesn't appear to be a reaction to an incident
- Five weeks could be a big commitment for the Latino community

The Board wants a discussion on community policing. It was suggested that the Police Chief go on a "listening tour." Jay responded that Kirk has already had numerous introductory meetings with various organizations and community influencers during his time as Chief.

STAFFING

Kirk informed the Board that the Town will be withdrawing from Trident in July. However, the Town will still maintain a relationship with Trident. The Town's Trident investigator will return to Carbondale and work on sensitive cases, allowing the Police Department to provide the best service possible.

Board members stated that they support Kirk's decision to withdraw from Trident.

Kirk stated that there are 17 people employed in the police department. Eleven of the 15 officers are bi-lingual, and six employees are female. Kirk noted that the majority of the Town's police officers have three years of experience. Four of the officers graduated from Roaring Fork High School – their roots are deep in the community. Housing is a challenge in retaining officers. The police department is currently fully staffed and no one is out due to an injury.

TRAINING

Kirk stated that the police receive extensive training including: anti-bias, de-escalation, sex assault, how to speak with victims, fraud, dealing with people in crisis, etc.

It was suggested that when we have an incident we should incorporate the incident in future training(s).

Kirk gave the Board data on the police department's use of force (minimal incidents). The Board asked how can we share this information with the public?

ADJOURN

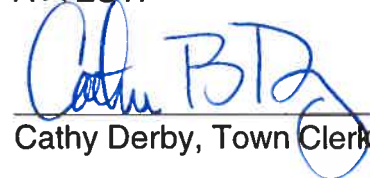
The March 16, 2021 work session adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED



Dan Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cathy Derby, Town Clerk