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Andrea Young



CITY HALL
2240 Minton Road
West Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: (321) 837-7774
Fax: (321) 768-2390
www.westmelbourne.org

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

August 26, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ramses Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Rodriguez led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ramses Rodriguez, and Board Members Matthew Brothers, Brian DeGonzague, Arvind Maddikonda, Rich Naber, Allen Jean, and Rusty Melle.

Absent: Blaine Barton, Carl Rutgeron, Rande Matteson, and Amy Bromfield.

Also present: City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Board Member DeGonzague moved to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2019 meeting. Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Business of the Quarter. The Board discussed awarding fourth quarter business of the quarter. Suggestions were made for Long Doggers, Five Guys, Sam's Club, Wawa, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Office Depot, Redline Battery Supply, and Hair Cuttery.

Following discussion, the Board asked that more information be provided on what the businesses had done in order to be recognized. They agreed to move their October meeting up to September in order to make a recommendation in a timely manner.

Provide Comments to Planning Department on Regulation of Food Trucks. City Clerk Hanscom explained that the Planning Department staff was proposing to begin a study on allowing food trucks in the City of West Melbourne. At this point, they were looking for comments from the Board. She noted that this would come back to the Board for further comments once an ordinance was drafted.

Board Member Brothers stated that the City should be contacting other restaurant owners, particularly the 'mom and pop' stores, to get comments; this may impact them more than the chain restaurants.

Board Member DeGonzague stated that he would like to see food trucks permitted. He noted there were small towns in Colorado that created a culture for food trucks which can bring life to some areas.

Board Member Maddikonda stated the opinions of the restaurant owners would be very important. There is a great deal of start-up costs for a restaurant to enter the market and food trucks could be seen as a disruption in the market.

Board Member Rusty Melle arrived at 6:52 p.m.

The Board asked how the restaurants were regulated. City Clerk Hanscom stated the food licenses are issued by the Brevard County Health Department.

Vice-Chair Naber stated that he would be in favor of the food trucks but would like to see time limits, such as monthly or weekly.

Board Members discussed other regulations such as zoning and distance requirements for other restaurants.

Board Member Melle believed that the market would dictate the location of the food truck. A food truck may do well in areas other than commercial zones. For example, he believed a mobile food truck at large development sites over the lunch hour may do well. Also, a residential property owner may want to hire a food truck for a day for a special party event at their home.

Board Members also mentioned that food trucks would need the property owner's permission and suggested that it be limited to one food truck per property. Board Members also asked that parking be considered if the food truck was taking spaces designated for customers.

Board Members also asked that food trucks to be limited to food and not allow for other sales, such as clothing or specialty items.

The Board discussed the "Food Truck Friday" event currently held at West Melbourne Community Park and suggested it could be marketed and expanded.

Lastly, the Board suggested doing this as a pilot program for a year to see how many permits were issued and how it affected the business community.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

The next meeting of the Business Advisory Board is scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.