

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
OLD TOWN PORTAL MARKET ADVISORY BOARD

February 21, 2024 Minutes

Board Members: Marilyn Moquino, Dagney Townsend, Charlene Kalbfell, Sylvia Ramos Cruz

City Representatives: Bree Ortiz, Steven Pettingill

Public: Adonica Gravengood, Ramona Tafoya, Susan Baca, Mairah Siler, Robert Long, Lisa Carrillo, Vicky Jackson, Betty Rodriguez

A quorum was established. The meeting started at 4:05 p.m.

At the last meeting there was no quorum. So there are no minutes to approve.

Note: There was a lot of arguments in this meeting among the “guest” accusing each other of various actions. I have tried to eliminate that and focus on just the issues that came up. I have organized them by issue because comments would occur at different times during the meeting. All discussions occurred under “Public Comment”. We got no further than that on the agenda. Ramona Tafoya

Public Comments

Conflict. Question was asked “When do we involve the city in a conflict?” Most issues are internal and we can deal with those on our own. There are a lot of vendors fighting on the sidewalk. Is there a process to deal with bigger violations? A place where we can go to handle fights in a different way rather than yelling. Vendors should be able to monitor themselves. Safety is important so they worry about dangerous situations. They are stuck seeing one persons word against another. They don’t witness the situation. There are a lot of complaints. All vendors have an opportunity to email the city with complaints or concerns. Cameras were suggested as a solution to the witness issue. They would be the witness.

Parking. Parking in the loading zone is an issue. Contact parking enforcement.

Switching Spaces. 99% of the issues deal with trading spaces. Most vendors don’t like the benches. Some feel “What does it matter if we switch?” That is where a lot of tension comes from. We should vote on doing that.

Reassignment. Vendors ask about taking a space after 9:30 reassignment. James created multiple reassignment in the afternoon. Why not in the morning too? Some vendors loose their space by a minute. So they would only have to wait till 10:00 to get in if that happened.

Rules. Vendors know the rules. They need to follow them. In the application process we agree, by signing, to obey the rules. We need to stick to them. Some want to “ditch” the rules. Everyone has been there long enough to know the rules and follow them. Some feel it is despicable to break the rules. Some say we’re not breaking the rules. We’re doing what we’re doing because times have changed.

New Owner. There is a new owner of La Placita. He drives by everyday to check vendors. He gets reports from different people. Vendors are putting chairs in front of the big windows. He knows. We need to do the best we can and have respect for each other. He is watching.

Portal Manager. When James was there we all knew what we were suppose to do. He was the rock of the program. The portal manager is there by law. That is important. The program is important to the city and tourist. We need to get back to a comfortable place to work. We need a portal manager. The

city is responsible to oversee the program. It's not working any other way. James was the portal manager. The city started using him in other places. Maybe that could be part time. What is happening with finding a portal manager? We need a solution. They are not getting a qualified application. They can use a temp employee to do the job. Qualifications are: 4 year degree. If they don't have a 4 year degree they are not qualified. They need 5 years direct experience. There are problems with the qualifications. Where do you get 5 years direct experience for a "Portal Manager"? Maybe a temp would work because we're not going to get a city employee.

Regulations. Things have changed. Regulations should change. Vendors should vote on this. Staff says they can change regulations. That makes sense.

Chair says we still need to deal with applications and old business. Who is going to do studio visits? We need someone who can do them. We should wait for the portal manager. The qualifications for a portal manager are important. They need to review items sold by vendors. We have 6 minutes left. We have a lot that is going to take more than an hour. Our next meeting is April 17, 2024 and then June 12, 2024.

The meeting is adjourned.