

SAFETY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Mark Weber, Barry VanHoozen, and Deborah Born. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator/Safety Director, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Patrick Jones, Police Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes from the October 26, 2021 meeting were approved 3-0.

UPDATE ON DORA

Ms. Sandretto stated that she believes the DORA has been a success so far, with minor hiccups but has not caused great difficulties. She has received no citizen complaints as the Law Director. Mr. VanHoozen asked if this will be an annual review. Ms. Sandretto stated that this can be discussed at any time and is only mandatory at the five year mark. Mr. VanHoozen would like to review this on an annual basis. Mr. Weber wanted to know about the possibility of allowing for a second DORA and Ms. Sandretto stated that at this time nothing has changed that would allow for a second one. Ms. Born wanted to know why we did not complete this review by October 1, 2021. Ms. Sandretto stated that we are within proper time to review because the DORA, with amendments, began in April 2021.

Chief Jones stated that there were hesitations and unknowns on their part, but that it has been positive overall. He talked about several instances where there have been violations, such as in the green space near Inside the Five, at the food trucks during Farmers Market nights, and at Music at the Market. However, with all of these instances, as soon as officers informed the people of the violation, they moved back within the boundaries of the DORA, simply misunderstanding where they could and could not be. Chief Jones stated that a square or rectangle is ideal for the boundaries of the DORA, for ease of enforcement, and is open to having the DORA go from Elm to Walnut and Front to Fifth Street. An issue for consideration is including the commodore building, its green space and the library in the Dora district.

Ms. Born stated that she is not a big fan of DORA and that we should leave the boundaries as they are. Chief Jones added that they did not have to issue any citations and that there have been zero cases of drunken or disorderly issues, as it relates to the DORA. Ms. Kabat stated that they have not seen a large increase in trash due to the DORA in downtown Perrysburg. Ms. Kabat also added she has received no complaints from the businesses in downtown or from the general public.

Chris Morris, co-owner of Inside the Five Brewing Co., stated that the community and businesses love the DORA. Business has increased because of it. The Owner of Ragazza loves the DORA and is a big supporter of it. Mr. Morris would like to see the boundaries of the DORA expanded,

as described by Chief Jones. He stated that the DORA cups show where you can go and that people are learning where they can and cannot go with the cups in downtown. He would like the green space near Inside the Five added to the DORA boundaries. Mr. Morris would also like to see the space where the food trucks typically are added to the DORA boundaries, or have the food trucks move elsewhere. He suggested adding a secondary coffee DORA cup, for warm drinks in wintertime.

Ms. Sandretto believes that the second cup could be added without an ordinance. If the boundaries of the DORA are proposed to change though, there must be notice to the public, as well as public hearings. Ms. Born stated that she would like the cup to be as environmentally friendly as possible and advised again that the boundaries in place should stay. The Committee members will speak to representatives of the Commodore Building and Way Public Library before proposing a change in the boundaries of the DORA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. VanHoozen and Mr. Weber stated that they enjoyed serving with Ms. Born and that while they did not always agree on every matter at hand, they appreciate her serving.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.