NOPNA General Meeting - 5/21/2020

Location: Virtual!

Attendees: Board: Julian, Robin, Tim, Jeff, Meg, Dera-jill. Chris, Leela, Jeremy, Jason

Guest speakers: Giselle; Thomas, Michael; Supervisor Dean Preston; Jen Snyder; Preston Kilgore

Total (incl board members and guest speakers): ~ 40

Agenda:

- 7:30-7:35: Welcome & Introductions
- 7:35-8:15: Divisadero Corridor Panel: Discussion with Small Business Owners
 - Michael Krouse Madrone
 - Celebrated 15 year anniversary, and re-upped in Feb for 10 more years on lease
 - Initially took a break, made repairs, fixed things up and financially ok.
 - Not seeing light at the end of the tunnel...real concerns for future, but limited business until there is a real solution (e.g. vaccine/cure, people want to go out.)
 - Pivot? Not yet... as non-food establishment, can't even do 'to-go'. May operate as a bottle-shop/liquor store; but not optimistic about viability of
 - Has received PPP loan... but no employees so non-forgivable; got it in a first round, so clock running out.. Nothing has been remotely helpful for him
 - Giselle Gvalzen Rare Device
 - One of the lucky ones able to ship, curbside pickup. Have reconfigured store and put up more window displays to align to curbside pickup
 - Have put second location plans on hold for now, but generally able to keep business going
 - Have benefited some from residents continuing to shop there; but still limited
 - Furloughed all employees; now hiring some back with partime hours
 - Got 2nd round PPP but unable to rehire staff on even partial hours; but can't bring employees back if they have to cede unemployment

Thomas Hamilton - Gamescape

- Has been tough b/c it's been an event space as well as shop previously Have converted retail to deliver/online shop, and that's how they've kept going
- Game-board industry is actually benefited in some ways from COVID; but financial hit comes from losing walk-in customers.
- Has chosen to maintain payroll through SIP; applied for PPP and received funds fairly quickly. Operating under assumption that loan will be forgiven. Loan is helping them tread water for now, but need to get back to a different space.
- Has left it up to employees if they want to come to work (while maintaining payroll)...not long-term maintainable

• What policies would you want to support small businesses?

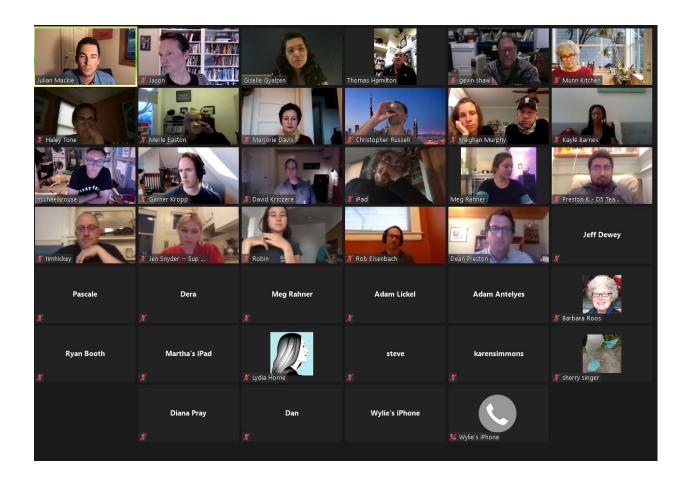
- 1. Economy freeze, limit requirements to all payments, freeze the bills
- 2. Long-term business solutions...how do businesses operate with social distancing;

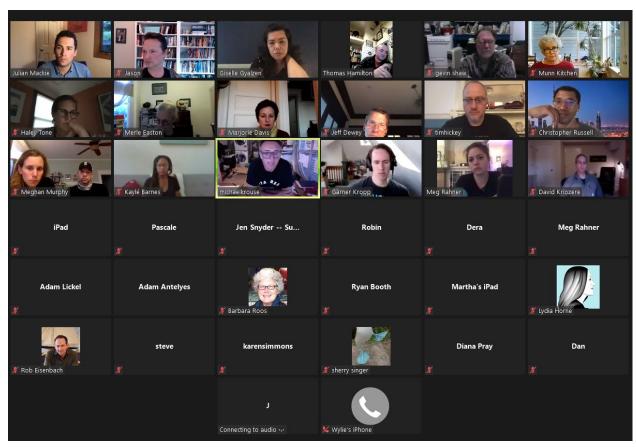
- 3. Hotline for small businesses to call how to address all the HR questions (what happens to unemployment, sickpay, etc..); information is changing quickly (Daily) so hard to keep up
- 4. Focus on commercial landlord... how to reduce lease payment for landlords (without subjecting to additional risk/liability)
- 5. There are some discussions of tax credits to landlords to defer/forgive rent payments but so far still in discussion; also would be helpful to make it easier to get out of leases...
- What else would be helpful; what's the most useful thing the city can do?
 - City who can offer information in a more timely matter; give more headsup to opening up
 - Lower cost/at-cost PPE support:
 - Here is a list of preferred PPE suppliers from the city with deals: https://sfosb.org/sites/default/files/Legacy%20Business/List%20of%20Local%20PPE%20Providers.pdf
- What can neighbors do?
 - Spend money if you have it
 - Buy bottles and beers from Madrone
 - Shop Local
 - Reach out to your merchants ask for help
- O What's going on with DMA?
 - Trying to promote business corridor and raise funds for things like holiday lights.

Agenda:

- 7:30-7:35: Welcome & Introductions
- 8:15-8:25: Updates from Supervisor Preston
 - PPE posted above; Donation center launched at Redemption Church for hand sanitizer,
 etc. launched gofundme
 - Preston would like to organize with small businesses to provide sanitizer and other PPE.
 - Curbside service has been something Preston office has been pushing for
 - Outdoor dining? Has gotten a lot of input from residents who'd like to see that get going...weeks not days, but a real priority.
 - Transportation and Slow streets first Page, now Golden Gate (between Masonic and Broderick) - has received 95% positive feedback
 - Fell Street Bike Lane should be done in early June; parking will be bumped out.
 - No 'physical construction'; looking for feedback on that
 - Appreciating availability of NOPNA, and ability to convene quickly
 - Stanyan Sleeping site
 - Moving forward; 43 tent-sites; 4-6 months. People in immediate neighborhood
 - Operating by homeless service providers
 - Targeted at masonic/haight encampment and broderick/oak encampments
 - Unhoused people in those areas are excited to move!
 - Norman Yee starting on recovery plan for small business task force
 - What hasn't happened yet is providing relief for people who cannot pay rent...they've limited evictions; but trying to find ways to address ballooning debt payment; state legislation pending; understand s the path back is daunting

- o First point of contact is with Jen Snyder jen.synder@sfgov.org; panhandle/haight
 - Preston Kilcore transportation/small biz
- 8:25-8:30: Closing & Next Steps from NOPNA President Julian Mackie
 - NOPNA Spring cleaning!
 - Empower neighbs to become block captains
 - Survey to follow; will distribute cleaning materials to neighbors
 - Woot Jeremy!
 - Socially Distanced Synchronized Hopscotch Event!
 - Working with West NOPA; PRO|SF, and Alamo Square..
 - Record is 3.7 Miles
 - Help out! Julian@nopna.org





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