

MEMORANDUM

TO: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager

FROM: Charles Witherington-Perkins, Director of Planning and Community Development

DATE: December 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Arlington Alfresco Re-Discussion

Background

COVID 19 has had a significant impact on national, state and local economies with the closure of many businesses, in particular restaurants and limits on capacities for many others. In response to the pandemic, Staff developed a series of business assistance accommodations, as well as opportunities for increased outdoor dining for restaurants both Downtown and throughout the community.

On May 8, 2020, at a Committee of the Whole, the Village Board discussed a series of recommendations from Staff, including full street closure for the creation of Arlington Alfresco in Downtown Arlington Heights and authorized Staff to proceed with its implementation. The Village Board also authorized Staff to implement and waive certain code requirements to allow outdoor dining on private property where restaurants and businesses had the ability to implement outdoor dining within parking lots on private properties. The Village Board and the Committee of the Whole discussed Arlington Alfresco again in August of 2020, with a comprehensive review occurring on January 25, 2021 and further discussion regarding special events in June of 2021.

Summary of Arlington Alfresco Start and Conclusion Dates

2020: June 2 through November 16

2021: March 12 through September 27

Proposed 2022: Early mid-May through end of September, early October

During each discussion, the Village Board Committee of the Whole made a series of recommendations regarding the start and conclusion of Arlington Alfresco during pandemic as well as potential non-pandemic years. The allocation of resources and expenses as well as direction regarding live outdoor music and the commencement and timing of certain special events. A summary of the Board's past motions is included as an attachment.

Recommendation:

Authorize Staff to implement Arlington Alfresco in 2022 and future years beginning early to mid-May, weather permitting and conclude at the end of September, early October.

Financing and Economics

Restaurant Benefit

In order to fully understand the economic benefits of Arlington Alfresco and the benefit of allowing outdoor dining for non-Alfresco restaurants, confidential sales and food and beverage data was obtained and analyzed. Individual business data is required by law to remain confidential, however, certain groups of data and analysis can be presented to demonstrate the financial gains or losses and trends of certain data set groups. As data is obtained from the State and local resources there are certain limits in its availability and analysis. For the purpose of this analysis, data was obtained and analyzed for a three-year time period, for five months between June and September for 2019, the pre-pandemic year, although the Downtown construction was occurring, and 2020 during the height of the pandemic when indoor dining was limited or not allowed and this past summer of 2021.

Arlington Alfresco Restaurants Only

Many restaurants throughout the downtown and the community had to adopt and some had outdoor dining on private property or had greater capacity, as well as parking for curbside pickup. Those restaurants in the Arlington Alfresco zone were limited in their outdoor dining options without Arlington Alfresco due to the narrow sidewalks with no private parking and had limited curbside pickup ability. Certain entertainment venues were excluded from the analysis such as Arlington Ale House and Big Shot Piano Lounge, which had no, or limited on street dining and Metropolis Performing Arts Centre. A total of 12 dining establishments within the Arlington Alfresco pedestrian area were analyzed. Of this group set during the above referenced time period, sales in 2021 increased 43.9% over pre-pandemic 2019 and sales in 2021 increased 27.9% over 2020. Two new restaurants opened at the beginning of the pandemic within the Arlington Alfresco area, Beer on the Wall and Scratchboard Kitchen. If these two restaurants were included in the analysis, total sales would be greater than illustrated. While summer sales increased, total full year sales in 2020 for this group were \$3.3 million less than in 2019, due to the pandemic.

Alfresco Restaurants	June-September			June-September
Restaurant	2019	2020	2021	
TOTALS	\$6,682,189	\$7,517,392	\$9,613,679	

Non-Arlington Alfresco Downtown Restaurants

The second group set of restaurant establishments that were analyzed, were the other restaurants Downtown that were not within the Arlington Alfresco pedestrian area. There are 24 restaurants or establishments in Downtown but outside of the Arlington Alfresco pedestrian area. Although this group set does include the Arlington Ale House and Big Shot Piano Lounge, which were included in this group set analysis, due to limited or no real presence with Alfresco dining. Big Shots hours and days were limited to Friday and weekends especially in 2020. Of this group set, one restaurant CoCo & Blu had not opened in 2019 and two restaurants, Pho An and Prairie Moo closed during 2021. As a group, these restaurants saw an increase in 2021 over a pre-pandemic 2019 of 22.9% and an increase in 2021 over 2020 of 34.4%. As to be expected, this is a larger group set and saw varied successes or impacts of the pandemic with some restaurants experiencing negative sales versus others that experienced significant increase. In general, breakfast and lunch only restaurants did not fair as well as those that also had a dinner, evening component. Non Alfresco restaurant group full year total sales in 2020 were \$2.5 million less than in 2019.

Downtown Non Alfresco	June-September			June-September	
Restaurant	2019	2020	2021	21v20	21v19
TOTALS	\$5,479,573	\$5,009,585	\$6,732,657	34.4%	22.9%

Uptown and Southtown

A sample set of 14 comparable restaurants from Uptown and Southtown were analyzed as a group set, these restaurants saw negative sales of -6.6% in 2021 compared to pre-pandemic 2019 and saw a 57.5% increase in 2021 sales over 2020, representing a greater impact of the pandemic in 2020. Only 5 of the 13 restaurants had outdoor patio dining on private property. When looking at the five restaurants that had outdoor dining on private property, these restaurants experienced a 7.5% increase in sales in 2021 over pre-pandemic 2019, and 66.3% increase in sales in 2021 compared to 2020.

Uptown Southtown	June-September			June-September	
Restaurant	2019	2020	2021	21v20	21v19
TOTALS	\$10,546,569	\$6,256,512	\$9,855,468	57.5%	-6.6%

Up/Southtown with Outdoor	June-September			June-September	
Restaurant	2019	2020	2021	21v20	21v19
TOTALS	\$3,818,567	\$2,468,517	\$4,105,950	66.3%	7.5%

In summary, the Arlington Alfresco restaurants received a significant boost in their summertime sales over the uptown/southtown restaurants, as well as the Downtown non-Alfresco restaurants. The Downtown non-Alfresco restaurants experienced as a group, larger increased sales in 2021 over pre-pandemic 2019 than the Uptown/Southtown group. From this, an assumption can be made that the Downtown non-Alfresco restaurants receive a boost being in proximity to the Arlington Alfresco restaurants. This also demonstrates support for the creation of an additional food and beverage tax for the Arlington Alfresco restaurants to cover the costs of setting up, marketing, running, and managing Arlington Alfresco in future years.

Village Costs: As with all other Arts, Entertainment & Events Fund costs, straight-time and fringe benefit costs are not included in the cost of an event, as these costs are expended on regular Village services. **Exhibit A** provides an outline of Alfresco costs from 2020 through 2022. The identified costs include Public Works overtime costs, as well as other equipment, material & supplies, and signage costs. Total 2020 Alfresco costs were higher due to initial material & supply costs. The estimated ongoing cost of producing the annual Alfresco event is estimated to be about \$90,000/year. If additional private parking rent costs were approved to help promote this event, the annual cost would be higher. Also, this does not include other possible costs such as special event parking plan and implementation or other necessary costs which may occur.

Funding for Arlington Alfresco: The Village does not have unlimited revenues to support either special events or Arlington Alfresco. An issue that has arisen during discussions is if the Village should continue to pay for Arlington Alfresco out of normal general funds revenues. This issue was discussed at the June Board meeting and has been discussed with those restaurants benefiting from utilization of Village property for expansion of their business operations. The Finance Department has explored the creation of a new Food and Beverage Tax "FBT" that would be applied only to restaurants within the Arlington Alfresco zone due to the direct benefit of the program to their business. This new tax would be used by the Village to offset the new costs for implementing Arlington Alfresco.

Exhibit B shows estimated revenue streams generated by various levels of a targeted FBT applied to Alfresco zone restaurants. A targeted Alfresco FBT of .5% would generate about \$94,000/year, and a targeted FBT of .75% would generate about \$142,000/year. As noted above, annual Alfresco costs incurred by the Village are significant, but the event provides a significant benefit to the Alfresco restaurants. By implementing a small targeted Alfresco FBT, those enjoying the event, including out-of-town patrons, would cover the cost of maintaining the event. The small size of the targeted FBT would likely not affect the patrons decision-making process on whether to dine at Alfresco. For example, a \$100 family meal in the Alfresco zone would cost an extra .50 cents to .75 cents, compared to dining at a restaurant outside the zone.

In addition to a targeted FBT, Staff is also proposing a small \$1,000 annual licensing fee for those restaurants that request and are approved to use a blocked-off portion of the public street. Signage costs and Public Works overtime are incurred to install and remove barriers for these approved requests. The proposed annual street use fee could generate about \$7,000/year. A smaller license fee for other restaurants utilizing the public right of way may be developed and implemented by Staff.

The revenues shown earlier in this memo reflect gross sales numbers for Village restaurants for the period of June-September for 2019 through 2021. The FBT receipt numbers shown in Exhibit B are for the entire years of 2017 through 2020. The 2017 – 2019 “normal”, pre-Covid years formed the basis for the average FBT receipt year which was used to project the targeted Alfresco FBT options. An entire year was used, as requiring the selected restaurants to change their point-of-sale registers before and after each Alfresco would be unwieldly. In addition, if the proposed targeted Alfresco FBT tax was only applied to May- October transactions, the targeted FBT tax would need to be over twice as large to generate the needed revenue to cover the annual cost of Alfresco. Finally, if an annual fee were implemented rather than a targeted FBT to cover Alfresco costs, that fee would hit the restaurants’ bottom line instead of being covered by Alfresco patrons.

Recommendation:

Authorize Staff to implement a Food & Beverage Tax and annual licensing fee to fund Arlington Alfresco for the Alfresco zone restaurants and non-Alfresco restaurants, which wish to use the curbside bump out spaces or other public property for outdoor seating. Implement an additional targeted Alfresco FBT of .75%, applicable to FBT businesses within the Alfresco zone, and an annual street use licensing fee of \$1,000, for applicable non-Alfresco restaurants. These charges would be sufficient to cover the Village’s cost to produce Alfresco, potential private parking rent, and could help offset a portion of the Downtown Sounds of Summer events.

Live Music

During Arlington Alfresco 2020 much discussion occurred relative to live outdoor music by the restaurants utilizing Arlington Alfresco. In August 2020, the Village Board discussed this topic again, and authorized the Village Manager powers to control or restrict live music at restaurants. In January 2021, the Board directed Staff to continue to allow but monitor outdoor music in the Arlington Alfresco zone, with the authority granted to halt music in the venue, if too loud. Previously the following options relative to live music have been discussed by the Board when considering Arlington Alfresco.

- a. Allow live music to continue with restaurants asked to continue to self-monitor the noise levels; with the Village Manager having the authority to prohibit/regulate music if noise levels were overly disruptive to residents.

- b. Restrict live music to Thursday-Saturday only with the following time restrictions.
Thursday: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday/Saturday: 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- c. Restrict live music hours with the following time restrictions:
Sunday – Thursday: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday/Saturday: 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- d. Prohibit live music completely

For the most part in 2021, live music was handled successfully and was not detrimental to the Downtown residents or other businesses. However, late in the year, Staff did begin to receive complaints which arose relative to street performers or busking. Generally, the complaints stemmed from callers who did not feel some of the music being performed was of good quality, was too loud, or occurred too late at night. The Integrated Service Department has been working with the Village Attorney to research options for regulating busking. While it can be argued that street performers do not have a right to perform under our existing code provisions. Staff has allowed performances to occur as part of the overall Alfresco experiment. Street music can add to the ambience and festival type atmosphere for visitors. However, based on last summer's experience, Staff would like to provide some regulation options to the Board at a later date on this topic. Some of the considerations are: hours, volume/amplification, location, whether or not street performers should be licensed, and first amendment issues. This issue will be the topic of another memo in 2022.

Recommendation:

- A. Allow outdoor live music within the Arlington Alfresco zone subject to the Village Manager's approval and modifications. Staff will continue to monitor live music during Arlington Alfresco, and if problems persist, pursue option B, shall be required of restaurants. The Village Manager retains the authority granted by the Village Board to halt music in a venue if it is deemed to loud and if the operator is not in compliance with the sound directives.***
- B. Prepare an analysis and alternatives for a street performer or busking policy and guidelines, as permissible within the law, for Village Board consideration.***

Parking & Traffic

As with any vibrant, successful Downtown, parking and traffic will always occupy discussion. For the most part, Arlington Alfresco was handled well, with minimal traffic or parking issues. Complaints were received relative to Alfresco diners poaching on private parking lots such as Village Green condominium building, Jewel parking lot, and the private parking lots on south Dunton Avenue. Strategies for improving signage, striping and other enhancements were presented to Village Green Condominium Associations, as well as discussions with Jewel, and more recently a meeting with the private parking lot property owners on Dunton Avenue. During busy evenings, parking also occurred along Campbell Avenue and Wing Street, west of Downtown, as well as the north/south streets, south of Sigwalt. During the experiment with the Sounds of Summer, Thursdays and Fridays saw a surge in parking, especially in the areas referenced and the Vail Avenue garage was observed at capacity on some Sounds of Summer evenings, especially on Fridays, beginning after 6:00 pm., with available parking easing up again at around 8:30 pm. The Village of Arlington Heights Downtown includes over 5,000 public and private parking spaces. During special events, the on-street parking and the Vail garage was 100% occupancy. Even with additional short-term customer parking being provided in parking E and some other locations,

there was a surge in demand, as referenced. However, available parking remained in other parking lots.

This is a good problem to have and try to solve, as it illustrates that Arlington Alfresco and Downtown Arlington Heights is more of a regional destination. While some improvement may be seen, as people begin using ride share again, post COVID, it is important to evaluate and develop an event parking plan. The Village issued a scope of work to Rich & Associates, the parking consultant retained to do the study a couple of years ago for the Village of Arlington Heights to prepare a detailed event parking plan. A response to the scope of work was received December 1, 2021 with a cost estimate of \$13, 095.

There are a number of strategies that the Village could consider over the next few years relative to Downtown event parking, these include the following:

1. Hire a consultant, Rich and Associates to develop a detailed Arlington Alfresco event parking plan to direct customers to available parking, especially those areas that are available in the evening to reduce the reliance of the Vail Avenue parking garage and other locations
2. Continue to explore potential agreements with private property owners to allow Alfresco and event customer parking on private lots in the evenings, in return for modest compensation or permit exchange.
3. Explore the long potential and costs associated with a free EV shuttle to transport customers from parking areas to the Arlington Alfresco area.
4. Develop a plan and cost estimates to hire and train summer time parking ambassadors.

Recommendation:

Authorize Staff to pursue the following actions:

- a. Retain a traffic consultant to develop a detailed special events parking plan and pursue its implementation.***
- b. Continue discussions with private property owners about parking sharing.***
- c. Continue to explore the long-term potential of an EV shuttle program and its costs and benefits.***

Curbside Bump Outs

Over the past two years, the Village has also allowed curb side bump outs within on-street parking for restaurants in the Downtown that do not have private property in order to have outdoor dining. The curb side bump outs were located adjacent to restaurants. A decision needs to be made as to whether to continue to allow curbside bump outs for any or all restaurants and under what circumstances.

If the Village determines to continue to permit outdoor dining via curbside bump outs, each location shall be reviewed on a case by case basis. Past utilization of the public right of way is no guarantee for future ongoing usage. Each restaurant utilizing or requesting to utilize curbside dining, will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- Frequency of use – not all curbside bump out dining areas were used on a frequent consistent regular basis. When not utilized, the space takes valuable parking, and can have a detrimental impact from a visual point of view.
- Impact on parking and complaints – a curbside bump out dining request may be denied due to ongoing complaints or need for on street parking along a particular corridor.

- Alternative outdoor dining opportunity - a request for curbside bump out may also be rejected if there are other viable opportunities for outdoor dining either on the public sidewalk through a license agreement or on adjacent private property.
- Adherence to rules and regulations – any approved curbside bump outs must comply with certain rules and regulations created by the Village dealing with operations, esthetics, etc.

Those restaurants that are considered viable for curbside bump out dining, will need to improve the aesthetics of the area, which could be accomplished by the following:

- The Village could make certain improvements, including;
 - a) Purchasing new decorative barriers, \$1,120 each or \$140 per lineal (8ft. barrier).
 - b) Purchasing concrete pre-stained barriers, \$1,200 each or \$120 per lineal foot (10 ft. barrier).
 - c) Purchasing new slip covers, \$175 each or \$30 per lineal foot (6 ft.).
 - d) Having Public Works paint the existing barriers a neutral color.
- Any restaurant that is approved for curbside bump out, must submit a plan for enhancing the esthetics, along the lines of the attached examples, which will be further developed to curbside bump out dining guidelines.
- A smaller license fee of \$1,000 could be established for those utilizing the Village right of way for additional outdoor dining.

Recommendation:

Curb side bump out dining shall be evaluated on a case by case basis based upon the above criteria. Due to the costs associated with purchasing so many new barriers, the Village would paint existing barriers and/or add new slip covers for any approved curb side bump outs, meeting the above criteria as determined by Staff, as well as payment of the annual \$1,000 License fee.

Outdoor Dining on Private Property Outside of the Downtown

Over the past two years, approximately 25 restaurants have been approved for outdoor dining on private property, and certain minimum code requirements have been waived at the approval of the Board. These private property locations such as Francesca's, Jameson's and Palm Court have been permitted covered temporary structures such as tents and igloos. It is recommended that outreach occur to these restaurants and to create an evaluation process to determine if the restaurants are looking or planning to do anything permanent, which may require zoning approvals and/or building permits, and for 2022 to allow for the continued waiver for temporary use.

Recommendation:

To reauthorize the administration to waive minimum parking requirements for outdoor dining on private property as well as waive other code requirements for the remainder of 2022 or until post COVID pandemic and to assist businesses outside of the Arlington Alfresco pedestrian area.

Special Events

Early this summer, Staff met and corresponded with Downtown business owners and residents, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Special Events Commission on multiple occasions related to special event planning. A detailed report was issued to the Board on June 2, 2021. At the Board meeting on June 7, 2021 the Board approved a motion with several conditions and authorized Staff to work with the Special Events Commission and the Chamber of Commerce for a two-day event for the first weekend of October 2021, using the 2019 Funding & Operation plan with agreed modifications, and that a final event for 2022 and beyond be developed in incorporation with these stakeholders. In addition, late in the summer, a shortened Sounds of Summer on Thursday and

Friday evenings was held, in order to test the setup and attendance in conjunction with Arlington Alfresco. Despite the shortened time period to plan a finale event, and lingering concerns regarding COVID 19, a successful two-day event was held the first weekend of October 2021. In addition, the Public Works Department has stated that the event setup was significantly improved logistically with the streets already closed.

Summary of Discussions with SEC and Chamber

The Special Events Commission supports the continuation of Harmony Fest as an annual event, in conjunction with the end of Arlington Alfresco. The Commission concurs with the Public Works sentiment stated above, that planning logistics are improved by the closed street environment that is in place after Arlington Alfresco has ended for the season. This recommendation was based on the highly attended 2021 Harmony Fest event which received positive feedback from attendees and participants.

The Manager's office reached out to the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce regarding their level of support or interest for the continuation of Harmony Fest (or something similar) at the end of Arlington Alfresco. As with all stakeholder discussions will continue on implementing the various aspects of Arlington Alfresco and special events.

Based upon the successes of last year and the previous community input and desire for Arlington Alfresco to be an annual occurrence, Staff is recommending the same approval granted by the Board for an end of season event, moving forward.

Recommendation:

Authorize Staff to continue to work with the Special Events Commission, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders on the development, costs, and operations of a two-day event commencing at the end of Arlington Alfresco.

Community Outreach

Throughout Arlington Alfresco in 2020 and 2021, there was continued communication with stakeholders both individually and through group zoom meetings and small group meetings. The following is a brief summary of community outreach during Arlington Alfresco:

- Communication individually and with small groups
- Survey of Downtown businesses – 53 responses
- Survey of Downtown residents 485 responses
- Survey of Arlington Alfresco customers 5,963 responses

The survey responses were summarized in the January report to the Board, that overwhelmingly positive and supportive of Arlington Alfresco.

- Multiple zoom meetings were held with Downtown businesses
- Multiple zoom meetings were held with Downtown residents
- Individual and small group meetings were held as needed.

After the conclusion of Arlington Alfresco, during the month of November/early December 2021, the following community outreach has occurred.

- Meeting with Village Green condominium representatives
- Meeting with private property owners regarding shared use of private parking lots
- Zoom meetings with Downtown businesses
- Zoom meetings with Downtown residents

Downtown Resident Zoom Meeting Summary

More recently on November 19, 2021 a zoom meeting was held with Downtown residents representing their homeowner's associations of the larger residential buildings. During the meeting, information was explained to the residents in attendance regarding the potential dates for Arlington Alfresco in 2022 and beyond. The ideas for funding of the Village costs by restaurants, evaluation of the curbside bump outs, recent issues raised regarding street performers, parking, loading, and some other items. The general consensus of the resident's homeowner's association representatives, who for the most part had polled the residents within their buildings, was very, very strong support for Arlington Alfresco. Most indicated that they and their residents loved Arlington Alfresco, the ambiance, and the outdoor dining. Many felt starting in mid-march was too early and suggested May. Some suggestions were made for continuing later in the year, while others suggested, all year-round Arlington Alfresco with permanent improvements made. Several issues were discussed, such as late-night noise, (not necessarily Arlington Alfresco related) loading, idling of vehicles, deliveries, ride share disruption and others. These were all discussed and Staff will continue to collaborate with the residents and businesses on these issues throughout the course of the year. Most residents responded that they like the street performers, but not the amplified music and there were some concerns over control of hours and spacing. Staff explained that a policy was being developed, but that there were certain legal restrictions for the use of public property by street performers. Others suggested a beginning and ending festival event, one to kick off Arlington Alfresco and one to conclude Arlington Alfresco. Several others discussed letting Arlington Alfresco run longer, with the event later in the year, to allow restaurants to take advantage of the nice fall weather. There were several questions raised by residents about who to call when and how regarding trespassing, late night noise, and other police related enforcement activities. A separate meeting was offered with the residents and representatives from the police department to discuss these specific items in more detail.

Downtown Businesses Zoom Meeting Summary

On December 2, 2021 a zoom meeting was held with all Downtown business contacts invited. Approximately 20 businesses attended the zoom meeting to provide their thoughts and comments on Arlington Alfresco and special events. The meeting began with an overview and a recap on Arlington Alfresco 2021, including some general feedback from residents and others that the March start date was too early, and discussions regarding the end of season Harmony Fest event. General discussion from the businesses was that March was perhaps too early, but there was still benefits to starting Arlington Alfresco early in April for some businesses. There was also a general consensus that the Harmony Fest event in early October was successful. One business stating it was his second-best festival that they had attended, even with some cool weather on the second day. It was discussed that the name change from the Mane Event – Taste of Arlington added some confusion, but that one event and one name was positive. When discussing 2022 start and completion dates, there were some preferences to start in April and run later in October and other suggestions to commence Mother's Day through mid-October or Indigenous Peoples Day. The various issues discussed in this memorandum and in past meetings with the businesses and the residents were discussed, including loading, delivery, pickup, ride share, late night noise, street music, and parking. A significant part of the conversation took place regarding the Food & Beverage Tax to cover the cost of Arlington Alfresco. Some businesses indicated that they had received some negative feedback when the idea of an additional Food & Beverage Tax was reported in the local media. Some indicated that their customers had indicated they had concerns over the additional tax, but once it was explained to their customers of the costs involved, and what it was for, there seemed to be a better acceptance of it. Others indicated that there would

always be some complaints regarding the Food & Beverage Tax, but that it was necessary to continue Arlington Alfresco and the ongoing ambiance to continue. One business even referenced that their customers indicated that they would not have an objection to paying an additional .08 cents for a beverage for the privilege of being able to frequent Arlington Alfresco.

Other discussion took place regarding parking, and that Metropolis Theater would be in session this year, where as in the past two years they have not. The proposed special event parking study was also discussed. There were comments and concerns from some businesses suggesting, that the two-hour parking on street was not sufficient time, and that perhaps additional 3-hour parking could be added in parking Lot E north of Davis Street along with additional ADA parking and access. There was some discussion and suggestion to have 3-hour parking and 15 min. parking, although this becomes impossible to enforce. The 2018 Rich and Associates parking study was discussed, which includes one potential long-term recommendation for on-street pay to park. It was also explained that the reasoning for the 2-hour on-street parking is to allow for turnover and the ability for businesses that need short term as well as long term parking to have some of their customers to park on-street, while those that have needs for long term parking beyond two hours have the ability to park for free in the public parking garages.

In conclusion, there was strong support for continuing Arlington Alfresco and appreciation of the continued opportunities for businesses to provide their input through these types of meetings.

Recommendations

The following is a recap of all recommendations outlined throughout the report:

1. Start and Completion:

Authorize Staff to implement Arlington Alfresco in 2022 and future years beginning early to mid-May, weather permitting and conclude at the end of September, early October.

2. Funding Alfresco:

Authorize Staff to implement a Food & Beverage Tax and annual licensing fee to fund Arlington Alfresco for the Alfresco zone restaurants and non-Alfresco restaurants, which wish to use the curbside bump out spaces or other public property for outdoor seating. Implement an additional targeted Alfresco FBT of .75%, applicable to FBT businesses within the Alfresco zone, and an annual street use licensing fee of \$1,000, for applicable non-Alfresco restaurants. These charges would be sufficient to cover the Village's cost to produce Alfresco, potential private parking rent, and could help offset a portion of the Downtown Sounds of Summer events.

3. Live Music:

- A. Allow outdoor live music within the Arlington Alfresco zone subject to the Village Manager's approval and modifications. Staff will continue to monitor live music during Arlington Alfresco, and if problems persist, pursue option B, shall be required of restaurants. The Village Manager retains the authority granted by the Village Board to halt music in a venue if it is deemed too loud and if the operator is not in compliance with the sound directives.***
- B. Prepare an analysis and alternatives for a street performer or busking policy and guidelines, as permissible within the law, for Village Board consideration.***

4. *Parking and Traffic:*

Authorize Staff to pursue the following actions:

- A. Retain a traffic consultant to develop a detailed special events parking plan and pursue its implementation.*
- B. Continue discussions with private property owners about parking sharing.*
- C. Continue to explore the long-term potential of an EV shuttle program and its costs and benefits.*

5. *Curb Side Bump Outs:*

Curb side bump out dining shall be evaluated on a case by case basis based upon the above criteria. Due to the costs associated with purchasing so many new barriers, the Village would paint existing barriers and/or add new slip covers for any approved curb side bump outs, meeting the above criteria as determined by Staff, as well as payment of the annual \$1,000 License fee.

6. *Outdoor Dining on Private Property:*

To reauthorize the administration to waive minimum parking requirements for outdoor dining on private property as well as waive other code requirements for the remainder of 2022 or until post COVID pandemic and to assist businesses outside of the Arlington Alfresco pedestrian area.

7. *Special Events:*

Authorize Staff to continue to work with the Special Events Commission, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders on the development, costs, and operations of a two-day event commencing at the end of Arlington Alfresco.

C: Diana Mikula: Assistant Village Manager
Thomas F. Kuehne: Director of Finance
Cris Papierniak: Director of Public Works
Michael Mertes: Business Development Manager

Attachments:

Committee of the Whole January 25, 2021 approved Board motions
Village Board June 7, 2021 approved Board motions
Exhibit A
Exhibit B
Curb side Images