

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE INDONESIA COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 19, 2020 – 4:45PM

Commission Members present: Mayor Dana Hilliard, Chair
Councilor Matt Gerding, Vice-Chair
Scott Marcus
Tise Melika Havi
Raychel Raude
David Baker
City Manager Bob Belmore

Others present: Councilor Nancie Cameron
Councilor Crystal Paradis

Chairman Hilliard called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

Committee members and attendees introduced themselves. Mayor Hilliard provided an overview of the Commission charge; its purpose and mission. He explained that Little Indonesia and a proposed Gate was presently a “concept” and had not yet been accepted as a City project by the City Council. The Mayor explained his concerns regarding the recent Press story provided by the Indonesian Community Connect (ICC) about this concept and the confusion that it appeared to cause, including the appearance the concept was a go at the Main Street/Washington Street location as depicted in the newspaper article. He stated that the ICC could not speak for the City and all Press releases should be coordinated through the Mayor’s office to avoid confusion and conflict between the City and the ICC.

Matt Gerding left around 5pm and Raychel Raude arrived. Mayor Hilliard stated that the Somersworth Plaza should be examined and it might provide a better location than Main Street. David Baker expressed support for the Plaza location. Manager Belmore gave an update on Main Street projects, the Veterans Memorial and Plaza development efforts.

Raychel Raude gave some ICC updates including a projected cost of the Gate being \$235,000 and ICC’s efforts to brand “Little Indonesia”; Little Indonesia marketplace. Scott Marcus also gave several updates on ICC efforts. There was general discussion on the similar name of the ICC’s Little Indonesia Committee to this Mayoral Commission; the timing of a Council vote (Resolution); pros and cons on the Main Street and Plaza locations.

The next meeting will be on Wed., March 11 at 5:30pm. Agenda items will include a Gate fundraising update from ICC members and Plaza discussions with input from Baker and Belmore.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore, City Manager