

## MEETING NOTES: CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE, JULY 21, 2020

Kathie Lynch, Ann Birner, Bianca Monteiro, Kim McNamara, Mary Morin, James Petersen. Andrew Bagley (private citizen) also joined the call.

1) Subcommittee membership and workflow

Membership now includes Mary Morin and Stephanie Seacord

Stephanie has volunteered to take responsibility for drafting the weekly data report.

2) How best to liaise with/support efforts of City

We want to avoid working at cross purposes as well as avoiding duplication of effort, prime example being Mask Resolution recently passed by the City Council while CRFT and Health Subcommittee also discussing mask utilization. Compromises to support business viability should not overshadow safety concerns. Particular concern was expressed regarding distance between tables (**Kim** to follow up, 14' would be acceptable) and use of masks in event/stage area (Subcommittee supports food and beverages to be served elsewhere before the show, and masks required during the show). It was decided to invite Josh Denton (**done/Ann**, awaiting reply), chair of the board for Pop-Up Portsmouth, to join tomorrow's CRTF call for a discussion and resolution of any differences between the Pop-Up and Health Subcommittees. See also Kim's email f/up re: other pop-up details. Also discussed, City Manager's suggestion to "...have comments from the Subcommittee on behalf of the entire Task Force..." during Wednesday evening's City Council Work Session. **Ann** will draft a statement and circulate to the subcommittee for comments today. Elements will include subcommittee members' backgrounds, reference to basic science supporting our views, endorsement of City mask ordinance, and additional tips (limitations of face shields, importance of correct mask use both indoors and outdoors, suggestion to carry a letter from HCP for claims of medical conditions that exempt one from mask usage).

**\*WE NEED TO BE FOCUSED and CLEAR, re: OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOMORROW'S CALL, AND CONSISTENT HENCEFORTH, ESPECIALLY w/r/t MASK USEAGE/EATING/DRINKING/DISTANCING IN POP-UP!\***

**ALL, PLEASE share any emerging information that would impact our stance by email before the call.**

3) Mask utilization next steps

Letter to editor for Portsmouth Herald? Many have been published, most in favor of mask use. Proposed that **Bianca** be interviewed by the Herald and the Boston Globe to summarize the work of this subcommittee. **Ann will ask Stephanie** for help arranging.

Photos of citizens in masks are already being placed in the Herald, subcommittee members should be included (e.g. **Bianca**, to accompany the anticipated interview)

How can subcommittee support business owners and staff who may feel intimidated by customers refusing to mask? Provide signs? Language may depend on advancement of city mask ordinance and potential for future enforcement. Some businesses are posting their own signs citing the city resolution which may deflect criticism be resistant customers.

4) Weekly data report for CRTF.

Looks good. Aiming to limit to one page. Suggestions (**Ann will relay to Stephanie**) include:

- Add key to ME and NH maps
- Change second sentence accompanying state maps to read "In general, darker shading reflects higher counts)
- Draw attention to difference in scales across the 4 graphs at bottom of page, e.g. by circling or pointing to line representing Y axis (i.e. 50,000 for NY, 2000 for MA, 100 for NH, 50 for ME).
- Make sure to encourage continued vigilance despite low local numbers and capture in minutes.

5) Any other business

- Number of restaurants in pop-up? **Kim** needs to know ASAP, will follow up with Andrew.
- PM Design Alliance would be willing to collaborate on locally relevant signage. Could use to decorate barricades. Andrew will take back to the design team.