

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation – Rabbi Brad Levenberg - Temple Sinai

II. Staff Discussion Items

A. 2021-132 Create Sandy Springs Membership Program

Shaun Albrechtson, Create Sandy Springs Director presented the Create Sandy Springs Membership Program proposal. The purpose of the membership program is to generate revenue to support elevated performers that ticket sales will not cover, as a membership program creates a base of revenue that can offset the difference between ticket sales and the cost of producing the event. The goal is to build the program to attract 1,500 members annually. In the first year, Create Sandy Springs anticipates 525-500 members, resulting in approximately \$100K in membership revenue. There are four levels of membership offering various discounts and incentives.

Membership Levels				
	Actor \$100	Director \$500	Producer \$2,500	Presenter \$5,000
2 Day Advance Ticket Sales	X	X	X	X
Members Only Drink Specials for all Presenting Partner Events	X	X	X	X
10% Discount on Select Events	X	X	X	X
10% Discount on Camps & Classes	X	X	X	X
Invitation to Some Member Events, including Backstage Tours	X	X	X	X
4 Day Advance Ticket Sales		X	X	X
Two Tickets to Select Performances		X	X	X
Priority Placement in Wait Lists for Sold Out Events		X	X	X
Exclusive Invitations to Private Social and Cultural Events		X	X	X
7 Day Advance Ticket Sales			X	X
Two Additional Tickets to Select Performance (Four Total)			X	X
Exclusive Invitations to Meet and Greet			X	X
Prominent Recognition on Rotating Digital Displays			X	X
Recognition in Quarterly Program and Select Events				X
Invitation for two to the Annual Chef's Table Event				X
Two Additional Tickets to Select Performances (Six Total)				X
Ticket Concierge Service				X
Free Valet Service				X
Exclusive Invitation to Special Backstage Events				X
One VIP Table at Either City Green Live or Concerts by the Springs				X

No senior, Veteran, or similar discounts are planned for the membership program. Such discounts are more appropriate in ticket buying programs. Discounts may be proposed in the future, after patrons are used to the pricing structure in place. The membership program does not include programs and events produced by outside groups such as the City Springs Theatre Company or the Jewish Film Festival, who each have their own membership programs. To help patrons differentiate between the various memberships programs, Create City Springs will host a meet-and-greet event for program members only. There is also a robust marketing plan in development, which will emphasize distinguishing Create Sandy Springs from the other arts partners. The upcoming season at Create Sandy Springs will be announced on May 28, 2021. The season will include 74 touring events, signature events and multiple rental opportunities. The season runs August, 2021 through June, 2022. The City's free concerts and the Farmer's Market make up the summer events, which enables the City's performing arts center to keep the season within the fiscal year.

B. 2021-133 Municipal Court Update

Dan Lee, City Attorney stated the City of Atlanta has not had municipal court since April of 2020, due to the pandemic. All the while, City of Sandy Springs' Municipal Court has been running virtual court.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated Fulton County announced that it will take three years and \$60M to catch up. The Sandy Springs Municipal Court virtual court program was established to keep cases moving. Sandy Springs Municipal Court Administrator Cheston and his team have done a phenomenal job in keeping the City's court system operating throughout this past year in a very safe, effective and efficient manner.

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City Attorney Lee introduced the Sandy Springs Municipal Court Solicitor **Steve Ellis**. Solicitor Ellis comes from Cobb County where he served as Chief Deputy Solicitor for almost 10 years. At Cobb County, Solicitor Ellis was instrumental in the operation in the Cobb County DUI Court. Today, Solicitor Ellis is a full-time City of Sandy Springs employee. This is a new structure, and less expensive than what the City has paid for City Solicitor services in the past.

Steve Ellis, City Solicitor presented the Municipal Court Update. A Diversion program is generally administered only by the Prosecutor's Office. A pre-plea program is when the defendant does not enter a guilty plea in front of a judge. Instead the case is held on a special calendar and the defendant completes certain terms and conditions in exchange for their case being dismissed. An Accountability Court is a post-plea program where the defendant enters a guilty plea in front of a judge. If they go under sentence, the sentence can be 12, 24 or 36 months. If the defendant successfully completes the terms set by the prosecution and the Accountability Court team, which includes the court, the defense, and case managers, their conviction may be reversed in part or in whole. It is a holistic approach. Proposed for the Sandy Springs Municipal Court is a hybrid of these two court programs. On cases where there is a clear drug addiction, mental illness, or Veteran's related issues, it will be a Diversion Court track, supervised by the Accountability Court Team. The defendant will not enter a plea to allow more flexibility. With pre-plea the sentence can be 12 or 24 months, however long we need to keep that participant in the program to restore them. We will also have participants coming to Court periodically to report and check-in to be able to gauge their progress. There will also be a DUI Court, which will be a post-plea program. The defendant will be required to enter a plea and go under sentence for a minimum of 24 months and up to 36 months depending on the severability of the offense. This sentence will not be dismissed. This will be a highly individualized approach. Participants that have serious past felony arrests will not be eligible. We will focus on individuals who are in the criminal justice system because they are suffering mental illness, alcohol and/or drug addiction issues or other behavioral health issues that come from their Veteran status. We plan to have a DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court and Addiction Court, and anticipate 30 to 45 participants in the pilot program. This will not be a free program. The entry fees and monthly participation fees help offset the cost of the treatment. The cost to the City include approximately \$2,000-\$4,000 annually per participant. The treatment provider will cost a minimum of \$90,000 per year. The treatment provider will be an organization that has licensed, professional counselors; a psychiatrist; has the capability to take in the participants, diagnose them and come up with a game plan to restore them. The Accountability Court will take approximately six months to establish, from concept to implementation. We are working now to pull the Accountability Court Team together, in partnership with the judge, the Sandy Springs Police Department, probation, and Court administration. We are seeking a treatment provider. We are already identifying potential participants. Applications may open June to August, 2021 and we hope to accept our first applicants into the program August to September, 2021.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked in Cobb County, how many program graduates were re-arrested.

City Solicitor Ellis replied from 2008 – 2018, the Cobb County DUI Court experienced a 75-80% successful rate. There are individuals will have to be sanctioned in the program and put into jail. There will be individuals who will fail out. In the Mental Health Court, there was a 66-80% success rate. Realistically, we should shoot for about 66-85% success rate.

City Attorney Lee stated Sandy Springs has spent a lot of money putting offenders in jail and keeping them in jail. There are the medical costs incurred by people that are in jail that should not be, because they fit one of the criteria presented this evening. It is a great opportunity for the City to do the right thing, keep people that should not be in jail, out, and, save the City money.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked if the participants will be required to do drug testing.

City Solicitor Ellis replied yes, the participants will be required to have alcohol and drug screening in all of the tracks, heavier in the DUI Court and Drug Addiction track.

City Attorney Lee commented that the City uses a private probation company. Those services that are paid by the convicted person will include drug testing, and monitoring. The probation company is already doing the supervision and the health provider will be brought into the process.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked will the Court deal with destitute individuals who cannot afford to participate. Is there Medicaid or federal funds available? Also, is community service a common alternative track because all should do community service, but could that hamper their ability to maintain other employment?

City Solicitor Ellis stated that the fees could be waived or converted into community service to allow indigent individuals to participate, but there should have to be a certified finding of indigence. There are grant funds available, but we will have to get the courts certified by the state in order to be able to apply for those grants.

Council Member John Paulson stated several of the veterans at American Legion Post #140 work with the Fulton County Veterans Court Program. They serve as big-brothers or advisors. It is quite satisfying because they manage to bring some of these veterans, who did not have much direction in their life, a little bit of direction.

III. Public Works

C. 2021-134 Medical District Roadway Safety Analysis

Kristen Wescott, Traffic / Transportation Manager stated the Medical District Roadway Safety Analysis is part of a very thorough assessment staff completed, looking at places where there were five or more crashes at intersections and mid-block crossings. When an area has persistent crashes, even if there is only property damage, it is not operationally sound; it is interfering with the traffic flow; and, it is interfering with people walking, biking and taking transit. Some of today's recommendations were presented with the Transportation Master Plan. This will give us an opportunity to develop our program under the Traffic Operations and Safety Program.

Andrew Antweiler, Project Manager, KCI Technologies stated the Medical District Roadway Safety Analysis identifies opportunities to improve conditions for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists on four major roadways within the Medical District area, Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Johnson Ferry Road, Glenridge Connector and Meridian Mark Road, along with 11 signalized intersections. The study began in July 2020. There were two stakeholder meetings that included three hospital representatives and representatives from GDOT and MARTA to help inform study steps. A street geometric review was conducted of street conditions, sidewalk / crosswalk conditions, bicycle facilities, traffic signal equipment and street light locations. A crash analysis showed there were a total of 781 crashes within the study area during from 2015 to 2019, equating to an average of three crashes per week. Through discussions with city staff and stakeholders, 12 projects were developed with additional recommendations and identified implementation options, such as stand-alone projects, additions to existing projects, GDOT partnerships, PCID partnerships, and future City TSPLOST projects. Projects fell into the categories of Complete Streets, Intersection, Multimodal, Midblock, Traffic Signal Upgrades, Wayfinding, and Lighting. Many projects are incorporated into the Traffic Master Plan Update, the City's proposed Capital Program, and recommend for the future TSPLOST candidate list. The next step for the study team is to finalize the study report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **6:48 p.m.**

Approved: May 18, 2021.

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk