

South Beach / Rincon / Mission Bay Neighborhood Association Meeting Monday September 13, 2021

MINUTES

6:00PM-7:00 PM

ZOOM
VIDEO-CONFERENCE MEETING

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| ATTENDEES | 3 Officers, 2 Directors, 1 Presenter, 6 residents |
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NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: MONDAY 10/11, 6 PM; TOPIC D6 REDISTRICTING

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| TOPIC | SF Restaurants: 19 months into Covid |
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- **WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS** (Gary Pegueros)

- **San Francisco Restaurants: 19 months into Covid**

Laurie Thomas, Executive Director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, joined us for an update on the status of restaurants in the era of Covid. (She last visited us in July 2020, 5 months into the pandemic.) Laurie began by sharing some figures from 2019 regarding brick and mortar restaurant closures (536) vs. openings (384) – a 1.4 factor. Prior to the pandemic, SF restaurants were already showing stress. This was a result of many ordinances over the years (minimum wage, health care, sick pay). By comparison, in 2021 thru June, there were 440 closures vs. 249 openings – a 1.7 factor, meaning a higher ratio of closures-to-openings in 2021 vs 2019.

2020 began in January/February with 'business as usual'. On February 25th a state of emergency was declared. Within 48 hours, conferences were cancelled, and tech was pulling back. Everyone immediately went to remote work. The City reacted early with meetings and planning. March 16th the City decided on a full closure. An Economic Recovery Task Force was created in April to address the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Individuals and Departments reached across the aisle to work together. Shared Spaces / Parklets were created out of this collaboration. The City announced that many of the fees for businesses were deferred and/or waived. The IRC (Independent Restaurant Coalition) was created in 2020 to work with others across the US to lobby for relief working on a federal level including Speaker Pelosi. The Payroll Protection Program came out of this collaboration.

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association, in an effort to stay connected with its members, began weekly webinars featuring some of the top restaurant people discussing how they have maneuvered thru the pandemic. To view these webinars, click [here](#).

As the pandemic continued thru 2020, restaurants were forced to deal with temporary closures and limited re-openings based on the City's Health Department's response to the fluctuating Covid-case numbers. By December 6, 2020, the City declared 'no indoor dining' thru the end of January 2021 which was devastating to restaurants during this normally busy time of year.

Additional federal relief programs were made available in 2021 but many restaurants did not receive funding due to the complicated nature of the application process. Shared Spaces were allowed to continue thru December 2021. This is an ongoing process (permits need to be filed correctly; 'fixes' to some parklets need to be addressed). By March 24th, we were in the Orange tier which allowed for 50% indoor dining to return with 6-ft spacing. By June 15th California resumed full

capacity for indoor dining with mask. By August 20th, full proof of vaccination and masks required for indoor dining.

Return to office for many companies won't happen until some time in 2022. In-person citywide conferences are expected to slowly resume in 2022. International travel to San Francisco is not expected to come back until 2025.

The GGRA has scheduled several special events in October to drive business to our restaurants and support them. In addition, "SF Restaurant Week" runs October 15th to 24th. Participating restaurants will offer special prix-fixe menus for Lunch and/or Dinner. For more info, click [here](#).

Followed by Q&A.

To view the Zoom meeting recording, click [here](#). Password: X9=Td1@K

Next Virtual Zoom Meeting: Monday, October 11th, 6pm; Topic District 6 Redistricting