



City of Leavenworth

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City Council

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May 8, 2020

Community Members,

Another day, another zillion emails amidst the two Zoom meetings. Yesterday was taken up by meetings, meetings, and then there was a meeting. So, I did not forget to write, nor was I taking a mental health day, I was just pooped! But they were good meetings!

One of those meetings was my focus group of businesses and medical personnel to talk about how and when we open up our town in a safe and responsible manner. I must say, there was a lot of progress made from the previous week. Things have moved forward. They really got the message that we will have to demonstrate our caring culture by wearing masks. They seem to be ready to buy into this as necessary if we are to be good hosts. As Rebecca Wadkins said more than once, “show our respiratory etiquette”. Nice phrase for our times. And I was proud to see, in my travels through the town last weekend, that the businesses who were open were being responsible. This portends well as we prepare to move forward. We still have some work to do on getting our guests into that culture, as not near as many of them were wearing masks or practicing social distancing. But we will work on that. By having them available everywhere, inside and out. By closing the streets to give room for distancing. By having hosts moving about to offer masks and give gentle reminders...

Well, it is going to be interesting. I am hoping that we will do this in a way that will set a high bar for other tourist towns to try to meet. That we will keep our residents, guests, and workers safe. There was another thing that I realized again this week. It was communicated to me over and over again in the myriad number of emails I received. If I am really doing my job, if I am really taking seriously the need to balance all the competing interests, ideas, and needs, and if I continue to insist that safety must be woven into and through all those interests while not ignoring the needs of our local businesses to begin working... well, I probably am not going to make anyone really happy with me. That's OK. As long as most people are only a little upset with me. I would count that as successful.

We are going to get through this. But it will most likely take a long time. And it will not be a straight line path we are on. It will meander. But hopefully it will, even if only little bit by little bit, move us forward and we will not have to take a giant leap back. Keep taking small steps, but keep them going forward.

Happy Mothers' Day to all of you who are mothers. I hope you are not questioning that high calling you have right now! You are so critically important! Give yourselves a giant hug, some gracious space, and some deep breaths! Someday, you will be appreciated for your love and commitment, honestly! Stay safe!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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