Game Day 2.0 in the Age of COVID-19

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Game Day 2.0 – The Sooner Perspective

Kathryn Walker

City of Norman

Authority to Regulate

- Public health and safety
  - Hallmark function of local government
  - Not just something City's can do – it is our duty to protect and promote public health

- But, there is often little a municipality can do to regulate what occurs on public university property absent a specific grant of authority

Protective State/City Measures Currently in Place

- State of Oklahoma – Nothing

- City of Norman – COVID-19 Ordinance
  - Face coverings
    - Required in public settings, places of public accommodation, and public service areas
    - Exceptions for disabilities, engaged in high intensity activities, where may increase heat related illness, children under 6, restaurant and bar patrons while eating/drinking, private homes
    - Businesses must post signage
  - Capacity Limitations
    - Restaurant dining areas must be arranged to promote Social Distancing (6 feet) between groups of patrons
    - Bars and bar areas must limit capacity to number of seats available, which must be arranged to promote Social Distancing (6 feet) between groups of patrons
      - No standing room only areas
      - No more ordering at the bar

University Approaches

- Like many of our cities, most of the universities and conferences are on their own with little guidance from the NCAA

- Several conferences have limited games, or eliminated the fall season altogether – the Big 12 has made no announcements whatsoever.

University of Oklahoma

- OU is modeling stadium capacity
  - 25% capacity (25,000 fans) allows for 6 feet between each fan and ensures no fan will have to pass within 6 feet of another
  - 50% capacity (50,000 fans) allows for 3 feet between each fan; transitional contact is possible
- Installed all touchless sinks throughout the stadium; each restroom will have an attendant ensuring ongoing cleanliness
- Incorporating Waze into OU Game Day app to point ticketholders to designated parking and entrances for their seat sections to avoid crowds at check in
- Over 200 hand sanitizing stations inside and around the outside of the stadium
- Cash free concessions; may be able to order from your seat
- Masks will likely be required

Game Day Concerns from the City's perspective

- Financial – Less capacity means less financial benefit
  - 100% capacity: over $5 million in sales and more than 5,000 room nights
  - 50% capacity: over $2.6 million in sales, and around 2,600 room nights
  - 25% capacity: just over $1.3 million in sales, and around 1,306 room nights

- Public Health
  - Will less stadium capacity mean more house parties and tailgating?
  - Availability and ability of law enforcement to enforce any restrictions
  - Special event areas adjacent to university

Recommendations for University Cities

- Schedule regular meetings with University athletics department staff to prepare for game day and assess effectiveness of strategies throughout the season
- Work with the University to create signage and broadcast announcements to promote actions that reduce the spread.
- Impose a face mask requirement, if you haven't already
- Install temporary hand sanitizing stations throughout areas adjacent to the University where crowds gather



Recommendations for University Cities

- Consider limiting social gathering sizes

- Consider adding additional conditions to any game day related special event licenses
  - Limit people within the special event at any given time
  - Place physical guides on floors and sidewalks to promote appropriate spacing where lines form
  - Provide for increased sanitization of eating and restroom facilities
  - Install physical barriers in areas where it is difficult to social distance.
  - Ensure seating layout promotes distancing
  - Touchless payment options
  - Designated entrance and exit only areas

Recommendations for University Cities

Get creative

- Think about ways to set up additional special event venues at different areas around campus to spread the crowds around

- Schedule live airings of the game at local parks where you can mark off and reserve socially distant circle



COVID-19 Game Day Code Enforcement

Texas A&M

College Station, Texas

Statewide Coronavirus Measures

- Governor's Executive Orders issued pursuant to state of disaster under Texas Government Code Ch. 418
- 29 Executive Orders so far

Executive Order GA-28 - issued June 26, 2020

- GA-28 lowers the occupancy back down to 50% for almost all businesses and events, including collegiate sporting events
- 50% occupancy does not apply to outdoor areas, events, or establishments, except those listed (collegiate sports is excepted from the outdoor occupancy exception)
- For outdoor gatherings in excess of 10*, mayoral approval is required
  - *originally 100, but amended to 10 with a proclamation issued with GA-29

Executive Order GA-29 - issued July 2, 2020

- Mask Mandate
- Require face covering over nose and mouth when inside buildings or outside public spaces when not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing.
- First offense requires a warning, second offense requires a fine of up to $250.
- Exceptions
  - Under 10 years old
  - Medical conditions
  - Eating/drinking
  - Swimming
  - Voting
  - Attending religious service (Is college football a recognized religion?)

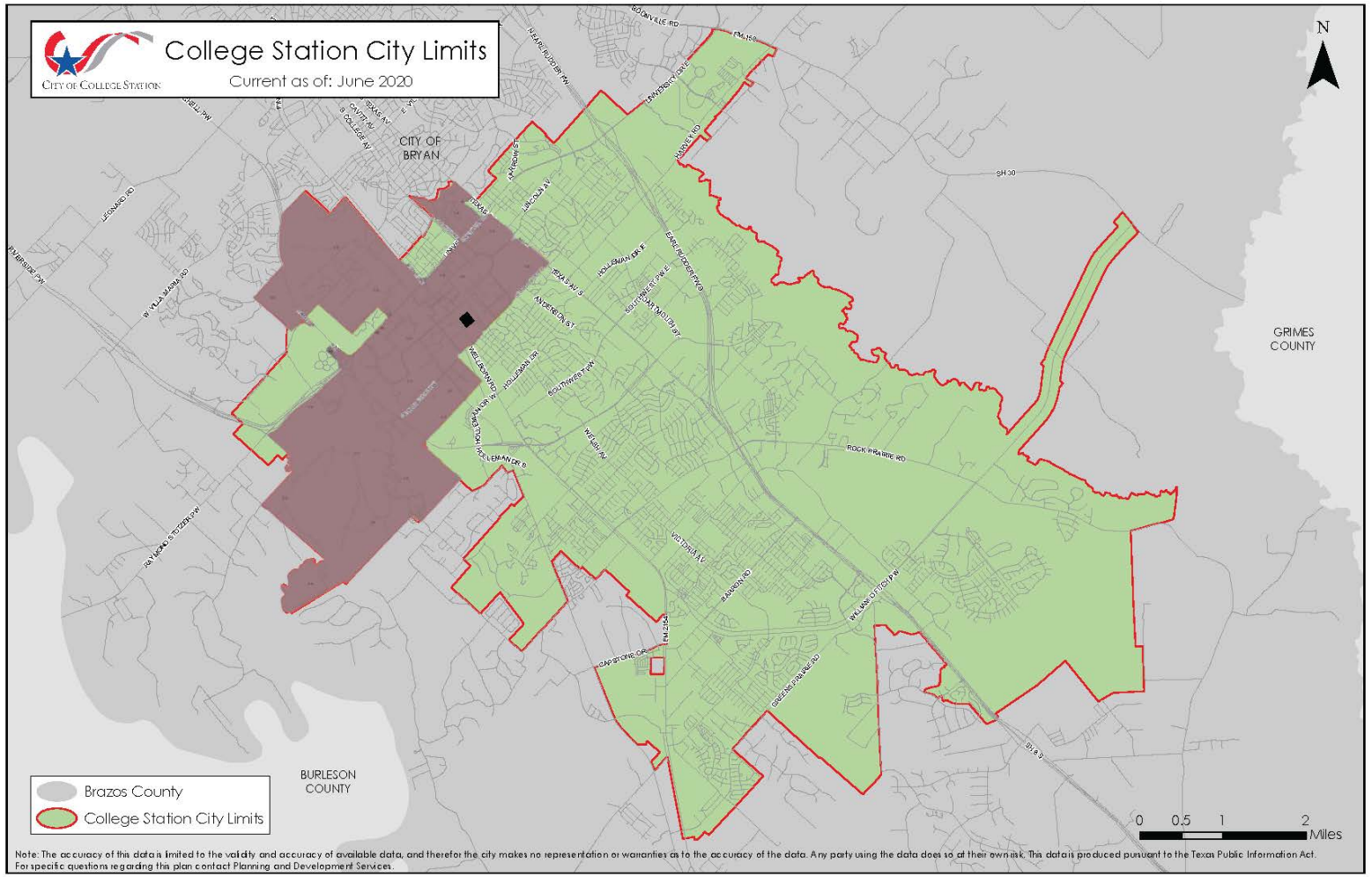
Texas A&M University Coronavirus Measures

- As of July 14 courses will be a mix of online and in person
- Physical distancing increased in classrooms, utilizing Reed Arena
- Face covering required
- Free COVID-19 testing for all students, faculty, and staff
- No announcement on sporting events or attendance
  - As of now only limited by state restrictions
- Kyle Field capacity is roughly 100,000

SEC Coronavirus Measures

- No decision on games yet
- Out of conference games with opponents whose conferences have limited play have been canceled

City of College Station Coronavirus Measures



City of College Station Coronavirus Measures

- June 25 - Mayoral Order requires businesses to implement a health and safety policy which requires masks be worn inside.
- Bars are still closed under GA-28 so Northgate (bar district) unlikely to be the same post game attraction as usual
- This will likely push fans to post game house parties in neighborhoods.
- As of July 16, 2020, no cases have been filed for violations of either the City or Statewide mask mandate.

Game Day 2.0

Corvallis Oregon

Background

- Population 60,000 including 20,000 undergraduate students
- Highest beer and pot sales by volume per capita in Oregon
- No local or state general sales tax, no local income taxes
  - State per capita sharing of alcohol, tobacco and fuel
  - Maximum 3% sales tax + per capita share of pot sales
- PAC-12 (second smallest football stadium, capacity 43,000)
- Levy support for community livability team with additional funding from university replaced by public safety fees on utility services bill.
  - University pays more in lieu of paying fee.

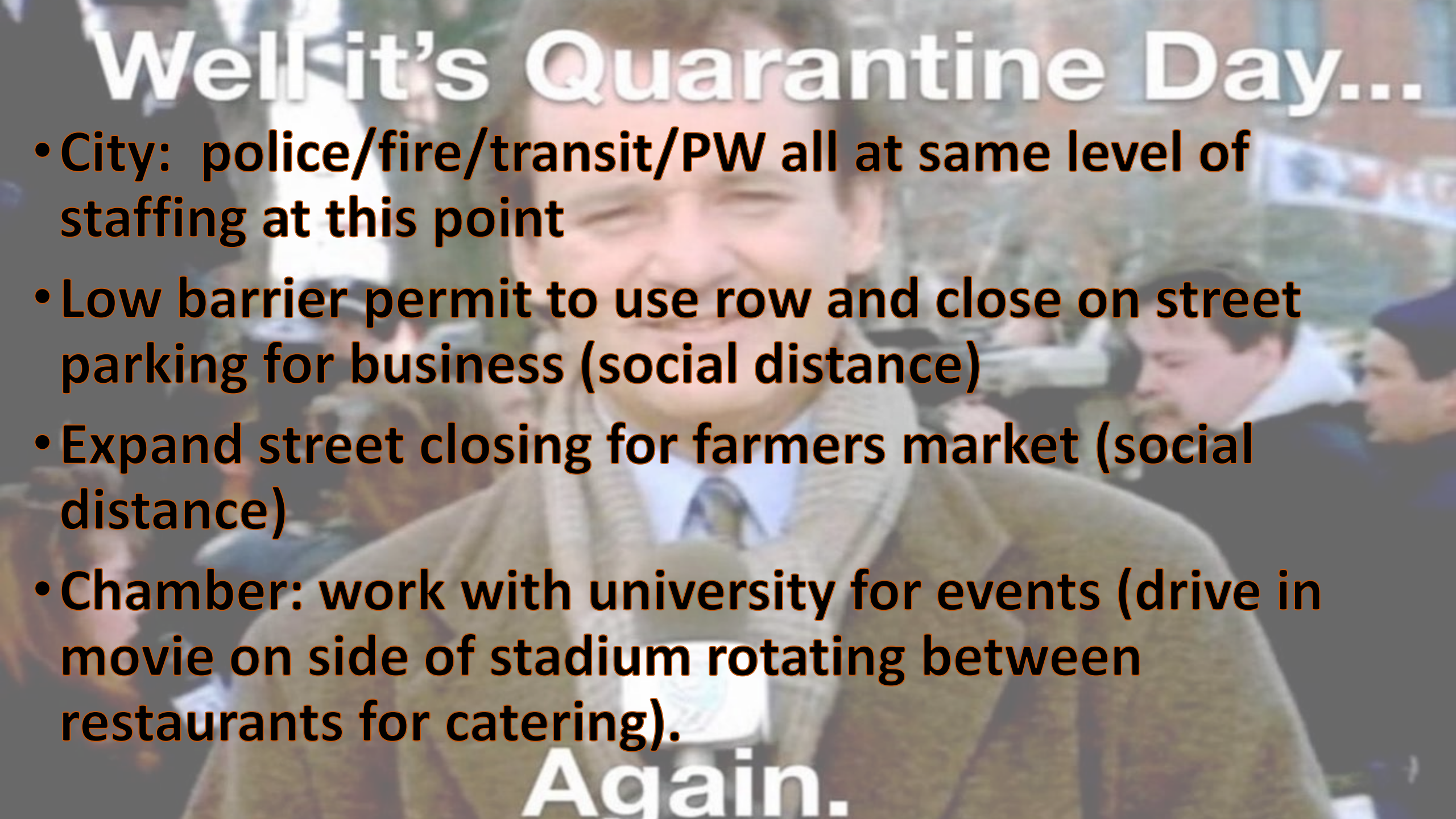
Usual game day issues 40-60,000 added to population

- Traffic and parking (only two bridges across river to interstate)
  - Fareless transit/shuttles/carpooling encouraged
- Parties/fights/minors in possession of alcohol and pot/property damage
  - Community livability team meets with new students/organizations/student government/housing managers/neighborhood associations prior to student return.
  - University agrees to include off-campus behavior in student conduct requirements.
  - Mandatory overtime for police and parking enforcement/mutual aid



- Fall festival
- Farmers market
- Riverfront restaurants, bars, brewpubs, hotels and retailers
- Parks, nonprofits provide parking services as fund raiser
- Fareless transit funded by feds based on number of rides
- Tailgating events
- Parking fund support by fines


When you try to go somewhere in
2020
I'm sorry,
Earth is closed today.


Well it's Quarantine Day...
City: police/fire/transit/PW all at same level of staffing at this point
Low barrier permit to use row and close on street parking for business (social distance)
Expand street closing for farmers market (social distance)
Chamber: work with university for events (drive in movie on side of stadium rotating between restaurants for catering).
Again.