

Minutes of the February 4, 2009
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: President, Ms. Brooke Avila, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call: Board Members Ms. Brooke Avila, Ms. Stacy Berenguel, Ms. Elizabeth Rudisill, and Dr. Michael Eberle were present.

Discussion Topics

Presentations

Rob of Metro Plains and Kirk Blunck of HLKB Architecture presented on the Crane Artist Loft project. The lofts will include art production and performance space, as well as 24 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom lofts. Located on the corner of 15th and Walnut Street, the project's lower level will be the parking garage, and will contain 42 car spaces (\$40 to \$50 per month). Public spaces to display art will be on the first floor. The project will most likely start in late summer of 2009, and will be completed in 2010. Metro Plains is currently seeking an investor. T & L Properties is expected to manage the building (T & L also manages Hawthorne Hill).

Mary Neiderbacher and Rita Conner of Des Moines City Council discussed the low income housing tax credits and enterprise zoning commission. Iowa Finance Authority requests that the city review the proposed project, while the city asks for the neighborhood association's input. Mary highlighted the income limits. Rita discussed the enterprise zone program (a state program) and noted how the program helps cities and governments meet the program's criteria. The program also helps businesses expand (about 1000 new jobs have been created with an average wage of \$17.73, with the help of the enterprise zone program).

Quentin Houston of Impact Downtown discussed the organization and its mission. Impact Downtown conducted a survey regarding downtown living. The study will be used to attract people to move downtown. Impact Downtown will then create a video to give to developers to help them attract condo buyers and apartment renters. In late March 2009, there will be a "culmination" event; all DNA members are invited to attend (details to come).

Approval of the January 7th and January 22nd Annual Meeting Minutes

Dr. Eberle motioned to approve. Ms. Rudisill seconded. The motion was approved.

Des Moines Police Department Report

Officer Misti Allison was not present. Ms. Allison reported to Ms. Avila that there have not been any major problems downtown.

President's Report

Ms. Avila noted that Ms. Johnson recruited one new business member (Hawkeye Pantry). Ms. Avila mentioned that she also needs board members' contact information to post on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Eberle noted that DNA's balance is currently \$3433.13.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Ms. Meredith MacQuigg, the membership committee chairperson, was not present.

Social

Ms. Diane Rasmussen, the social committee chairperson, was not present.

New Business

N/A

Old Business

Ms. Wong asked that DNA send an email to see if a member can help design marketing material. Dr. Eberle mentioned that it is difficult getting volunteers to do all of the design work. The board agreed to request bids to service the website, design marketing material, and send emails/newsletters to members.

Adjournment

Ms. Avila motioned to adjourn. Ms. Wong seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.