

Minutes of the March 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,, Ms. Tina Johnson, Mr. Nino Toscano, Ms. China Wong, and Dr. Michael Eberle were present. DNA members Ms. Meredith MacQuigg, Ms. Tammy Berenguel, Mr. Ben Washburn, Ms. Renee Bandstra, and Officer Misti Allison were also present.

Discussion Topics

Presentations

Mr. Casey Port of Hubbell and Mr. Brian Schiffler of Schiffler and Associates presented on the Rocket Transfer Lofts and Riverpoint Lofts. Mr. Port noted that construction will most likely start in the Summer of 2009. The projects will include parking (1.5 spaces per bedroom) and landscaping. Rocket Transfer Lofts and Riverpoint Lofts will be income restricted (60% of adjusted median income) and will be available for rent. The lofts will start renting in the summer of 2010.

Mr. Evan Shaw of HLKB Architecture presented on the Younkers Restoration Project. It will be a mixed-use development (commercial, retail, and residential). The building will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The intent is to keep its historic character as much as possible. 130 residential units will be available (50% low income and 50% market rate). The first two floors will be open to retail tenants. 40 parking spaces will be available in the basement. Mr. Shaw noted that they are negotiating with the Des Moines Partnership parking garage to lease more parking spaces. New Market Investors of Washington, D.C., are developing the project. Construction may begin in the fall of 2009, while the building will open in the fall of 2011.

Approval of the February 2009 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wong motioned to approve. Ms. Rudisill seconded. Minutes were approved.

Des Moines Police Department Report

Officer Misti Allison noted that there will be a St. Patrick's Day event in front of the Liar's Club. Drake Relays will also have an event on Court Avenue in May. Carp Fest will be back this summer. She noted that there were no crimes/issues to report.

President's Report

Ms. Avila noted that the City Plan and Zoning meeting will be tomorrow, March 5th, at 6 PM at City Hall.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Eberle noted that DNA's balance is currently \$3613.71. Ms. Rudisill motioned to approve the financial report. Ms. Wong seconded. The financial report was approved.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Ms. MacQuigg, the Membership Committee Chairperson, noted that household memberships increased by nine, while some business memberships have expired. Ms. Wyetta Hammer and Mr. Greg Tew, Membership Committee members, have been making calls to follow up with business members. Ms. Johnson will also help contact expired business members.

Social

Ms. Tammy Berenguel, Social Committee member, reported to the board. The Social Committee would like to conduct a survey to see what DNA members would like to do for socials. March 26th (5-8 PM) will be the Downtown Shuttle Loop and social. The social will start at Django and then continue to Grand Piano Bistro (via the Downtown Shuttle). The shuttle does charge afterhours, thus \$300 is needed to book the shuttle. Ms. Berenguel presented a list of proposed socials. Dr. Eberle motioned to approve the \$300 budget; Ms. Avila seconded. The motion was approved.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Ms. Avila motioned to approve the Rocket Transfer Lofts. Ms. Wong seconded. The motion to approve the Rocket Transfer Lofts was approved. Ms. Avila motioned to approve the Riverfront Lofts. Dr. Eberle seconded. Motion was approved, one opposed. Ms. Avila motioned to approve the Younkers Restoration Project. Dr. Eberle suggested approving the project with the caveat of negotiating a parking lease agreement with the Des Moines Partnership parking garage. Ms. Wong seconded. The motion was approved with the condition of solidifying a parking arrangement.

Ms. Johnson got two new members at the Tweet-Up event (DNA partnered to sponsor the event); over 100 people attended.

Ms. Wong reported on the Marketing/Communications Committee.

Adjournment

Ms. Avila motioned to adjourn. Ms. Wong seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.