

Minutes of the January 7, 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. China Wong, Ms. Stacy Berenguel, Ms. Elizabeth Rudisill, and Dr. Michael Eberle, were present. DNA members Ms. Meredith MacQuigg, Ms. Tina Johnson, Mr. Nino Toscano, and Mr. Larry Bradshaw were also present.

Discussion Topics

Presentations

Ms. Jackie Nickolaus of Sherman Associates presented on the Rumely Project. The Rumely Building is no longer being renovated by J & T Development. Sherman Associates has taken over the project originally proposed by J & T Development with the exception of the plan for underground parking. The current plan for parking is for tenants to lease the third level of the Science Center parking structure. The Rumely Project will be 100% affordable, meaning that the apartments will be affordable to household incomes of 60% median. The contractor has not been selected yet. Construction is expected to begin within the next year. Ms. Nicklaus is asking for a letter of recommendation from the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

Ms. Rachel from Rebuilding Together conducted a presentation on the non-profit organization. Rebuilding Together helps elderly and low-income homeowners rebuild and modify their homes. The organization also helps ensure safe homes. May 2nd is Rebuilding Day (40-50 house projects in which volunteers help homeowners with their housework). The organization has been in existence for about 15 years and has completed its 500th home in Des Moines. The organization is looking for skilled workers, volunteers, and those who need help (income and home value restrictions apply). For applications and more info, please see: www.rebuildingtogetherdesmoines.org.

Mr. Jake Christiansen of Nelson presented on the Hawkeye Transfer/L&L Insulation development, a market-value apartment project. The project is located at 25 SW 5th Street in Des Moines. It will be a 70 loft-apartment, historic renovation project, which is estimated to be completed in the spring of 2010. The apartment building will include onsite parking (in basement and first floor of the building). Estimated market value: \$1.14-\$1.17 per square foot. Lending has already been secured.

Approval of November 5th Minutes

Ms. Rudisill motioned to approve. Ms. Avila seconded. The motion was approved.

Des Moines Police Department Report

Officer Misti Allison was not present. Ms. Avila announced that the New Year's Eve celebration went very well and that there were no issues.

President's Report

The YMCA will report at the DNA Annual Meeting at Azalea on January 22, 2009.

Ms. Avila also noted that Mentor Iowa sent DNA a thank you note in appreciation of DNA's holiday toy drive.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Eberle will present the financial report at the DNA Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Ms. MacQuigg noted that membership numbers have decreased slightly. She also stated that several businesses have approached her regarding having business members' promotional materials at DNA socials.

DCA/Impact Downtown requested that DNA help conduct two surveys regarding downtown living. Meredith suggested that we do it via SurveyMonkey.com.

Ms. Johnson suggested that DNA create a Facebook page to help create more of a community. Ms. MacQuigg will create a page.

Social

Ms. Avila noted that the Annual Meeting will be held at Azalea on January 22, 2009, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Pizza will be provided by Azalea. A budget of \$375 will be allocated for the social.

Ms. Avila announced that the Social Committee will have a meeting on January 8, 2009.

New Business

Ms. Johnson announced that the First Annual Scavenger Hunt will January 17, 2009. The event will start at 7:30 PM on the ninth floor of the Liberty Building. Participants must bring a camera and emulate the photos provided by Ms. Johnson. The first person who

brings back all of the photos will win over \$1000 in prizes. The event will help increase downtown awareness, as all participating businesses will stay open throughout the hunt. Register at www.scavengerhunt.livingdowntown.com

Dr. Eberle spoke about Friends of the Des Moines Parks, a non-profit organization that focuses on park improvement. He suggested that DNA donate to the organization, as it has been affected by deep budget cuts. Dr. Eberle noted that DNA can earmark the money for a downtown park improvement project. Ms. Wong motioned to approve a donation of \$1500 for the project. Ms. Rudisill seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Wong moved that DNA donate \$100 to Des Moines Bicycle Collective. Ms. Rudisill seconded. The motion was approved.

Dr. Eberle moved to approve the Rumely project and write a letter of support contingent upon Science Center approval of free parking for its tenants. Ms. Berenguel seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Rudisill motioned to approve the Hawkeye project and write a letter of support. Ms. Wong seconded. The motion was approved.

Old Business

N/A

Adjournment

Ms. Avila motioned to adjourn. Ms. Wong seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.