



**Downtown Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2014
6:00 pm
Saddlery Building
309 Court Ave.**

1. Call meeting to order... 6:00 pm
 - a. Present: Thompson, Bradshaw, Rowe, Lampe, Talcott, Watson (Rope absent)
 - b. Guests: Sgt. Neely (DMPD), Dave Soban (OPN Architects), Roger Ferris (resident), Connie Wimer, Phil Reasonor, Amy Staudt (Knapp), Pete Husch (Hy-Vee); Erin Olson Douglas (City); several members
2. New Business
 - a. Motion to approve March meeting minutes: Rowe
 - i. Thompson: second
 - ii. Motion passed
3. Officer Reports
 - a. President's Report (Bradshaw)
 - i. Grand Ave. Bridge - Jeb Brewer from City notified us of meeting on aesthetics of rebuild; Thompson and Rowe plan to attend; City Manager Clark provided a form letter of support for DNA review to aid in obtaining DOT grant money for infrastructure.
 - ii. Younkers Building Fire - media have reached out to us; Bradshaw was interviewed by DM Register; Darcy Malsby & Co., marketing company, also reaching out for interview
 - iii. Des Moines Neighbors Alice Rodine & Bob Mickle Recognition Award - dinner on 5/15, have solicited nominations; email Watson if you have recommendations



- iv. Zach Mannheimer/DSM Social Club - Joint Events with NDA; Zach reached out, good social at Social Club, interested in more involvement going forward
- v. DSM Performing Arts - announcement coming up for next season, Thompson will attend
- b. Treasurer's Report (Lampe)
 - i. good response to business mailer last month on renewals
 - ii. account is highest in three years
 - iii. figures to be provided
 - iv. Motion to approve adoption of proposed budget: Rowe
- c. Police Crime Report (Sgt. Neely) (note: given during break of Knapp/Hy-Vee presentation)
 - i. Burglary at First General Services (had had similar break-in previously with no police report, so encourages people filing police reports so they can track repeat offenses); Willful injury 300 block of Court (girlfriend/boyfriend dispute); Robbery (100 block of 2nd (another relationship dispute, punch and cell phone stolen makes is a robbery); Strangulation (noted that this is common in domestic disputes, is tracked because it is common and can create a case); Carry and Conceal (semi-routine stop, guy had 8 inch knife); Tumea & Sons robbery (2 safes stolen, alarm had been set); Assault (6-man fight outside Metro Lofts, stabbing, everyone ran away); Robbery (Jefferson Apts., fight between friends, stole backpack with cash, property)
 - ii. Assaults, etc. already picking up as weather warming up
 - iii. Discussed issue with DCA and Court Ave. District and payment for increased patrols, still working on sorting this out; whether PUSH Unit (extra patrols) will be on loop will be judgment call by Chief



- iv. No updates on the status of Younkers investigation
 - v. Mentioned issue with people who can't/won't go into bars and loitering outside; CAP program are volunteers who have badge and help police; vigilante group called Guardian Angels have talked about coming down, DMPD is against that.
4. Special Guest Speakers
- a. Polk County Supervisor Tom Hockensmith:
 - i. has been supervisor since 2003; district change about a year and a half ago
 - ii. he reaches out to give overview on what's going on in county government to each neighborhood associations (now has 26)
 - iii. Highlights:
 - 1. Budget (process completed in March; financial is financially solid; items of note: public safety communication system to connect across jurisdictions, County Attorney moving into Wellmark building; constraints to watch: property tax reform (apartment now treated as residential)
 - 2. Court improvements with additional staff and renovations
 - 3. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: created initially to keep jail population down, a number of programs involved, working on saving money by expanding things at jail itself, other efficiencies
 - 4. Iowa Events Center hotel: working with Greater DSM Partnership, others, to try to get a full convention hotel attached, issue is to make it work financially (\$12-15MM gap to work through assuming Reinvestment Act funds all are awarded).
 - b. Knapp Properties/Hy-Vee Proposal (Soban, Husch, Staudt) presented
 - i. Roughly 60 market rate apts., 35,000 sf full service grocery store

Downtown Neighborhood Association

We exist to involve neighbors in a collective effort to enhance and celebrate the quality of residential life in downtown Des Moines.

- ii. Have had numerous meetings with City, other stakeholders already, continue to work on design
- iii. Have exterior designs so far, working on interior designs of the store (which will depend on the ultimate building construction)
- iv. Sgt. Neely provided input on liquor segregation
- v. Most stores are 24/7 (at least for grocery items), not determined whether this will be but most likely will
- vi. Will have all normal departments (restaurant, deli, liquor): dry cleaner, bank are things they contract with others for so remain TBD.
- vii. Surface parking: is a Hy Vee requirement, based on the need to attract commuter shoppers (which they expect around 35-40% of their customers to be); they have reduced number of proposed surface stalls from 140 to around 100; would have monitoring of parking (intended to be a city parking garage at this point)
- viii. Working with goals to build to urban edge but preserve pedestrian/architectural
- ix. Had considered row houses along 4th - took away too much parking, also doesn't create the density that might be desired and feasible in the future as more people live downtown
- x. Addressing semi deliveries
- xi. Market Grill: two-story with outdoor space above on 4th & Court; want it to be hip, urban setting
- xii. Windows along Court will open up so that it meshes well with Farmers Market
- xiii. City guidelines say to have modern design, not mimic old architecture
- xiv. Hope is to make parking lot look more like a park with more trees than required



- xv. Considering possibility of green roof
 - xvi. Considering issues to screen parking lot, possible art installations
 - xvii. Exploring possibility of adding additional 20 units or so along 4th, also keeping plans in mind for future additions
 - xviii. Expecting there will be a full update to City Council in the next 2-3 weeks
5. Old Business (Bradshaw)
- a. Non-Profit Application Status (Bradshaw): trying to get response back, no update yet
 - b. Advertising in Downtown Living Magazine
 - i. Two people contacted Bradshaw volunteering to write a column in the Magazine: Dia Gross, Jillian Gartner
 - ii. One-year contract was \$186/month
 - iii. Lampe: spoke positively about benefits, expensive but thinks it is worth a try for a year
 - iv. Motion to enter into 1-year contract: Lampe
 - 1. Second: Watson
 - 2. Passed
 - c. Donations for Capital Improvements
 - i. Thompson: wants DNA to make commitment to direct conversation on building significant height on development on that site; thinks we should put money as a token towards directing conversation; Discussion: nothing to be done at this point, need to stay plugged in
 - ii. Rowe: working on proposal for conserving pocket park between Temple and Library
 - iii. Lampe volunteered to spearhead efforts on capital improvements
 - d. Brochure printing
 - i. Motion to order DNA brochures for individuals and businesses: Rowe



1. Thompson: Second
 2. Motion passed
6. Committee Reports
- a. Membership (Watson)
 - i. 10 total new members, (1 business, Social Club); 14 renewals; 283 total paid (192 residents, 28 non-residents, 61 business)
 - b. Social Media (Bradshaw): social media is working, people who reached out regarding the Downtown Living Magazine
 - c. Social (Bradshaw): I Cubs 4/29/14; HEV Free Flick 8/28 at Simon Estes (Ghostbusters); Wakonda Club in September; Malo at some point
7. Other Business:
- a. Membership Strategies (Watson): Want to have card/brochure for people to fill out with their information if they are signing up at socials
 - b. Bradshaw shared information on people who have contacted us, invited us to events
 - c. Watson: has group of volunteers to send letters, do follow up calls on expired members
8. Motion to adjourn: Thompson
- a. Second: Watson
 - b. Motion passed

Next meeting: May 7