Downtown Neighborhood Association - 2017 Meeting of the Members - 1.17.17 at 6:00pm

Vivian's Diner & Drinks

Present board members: Jon Thompson, Tony Filippini, Chris Swailes, Andrea Metzler, Hanna Wolle, Deb Madison-Levi

2016 President's Report - Jon Thompson

Neighborhood Projects: In 2016, we sponsored Art Walk, an inaugural art project in the Skywalk, provided a token amount of financial support for the cameras on Court Avenue. Finally, we raised $1,700 for backpack buddies.

Neighborhood Issues Discussed in 2016: Our neighborhood is not without issues. Here is a list of the hot-button issues that were raised by our membership and discussed with city officials.

- Loop Scooping
- Pedestrian signals at Downtown School
- Train Noise
- Construction Closures of Sidewalks
- Policy Security
- Court Avenue Security

Walkability/Connect Downtown: The Urban Land Institute, City of Des Moines, and Des Moines Partnership have been working for some time to devise a plan to improve the walkability of Downtown. Because of this, there are some very large ideas floating around, which would greatly change how traffic flows in, through, and out of downtown. 2017 will most likely be the year that some concrete plans are formed and action starts to occur around those plans.

Identity: The Downtown Neighborhood Association struggles with our identity. We do well as a social club, but do a lot to improve the neighborhood we live, work, and play in. We need to tell this story better. We began a project to clarify the brand of Downtown Neighborhood Association. It stalled in 2016. My hope is that the 2017 Board forms an identity committee to further this work. I will be happy to serve on this committee.

Board Guests in 2016 (12): In 2016, our board met with twelve individuals (some more than once), which provided reports about our neighborhood, requested support for their projects, or proposed projects for the Downtown Neighborhood to take on.

Government:

Tom Hockensmith - Polk County Supervisors

Police:

Sgt. Lori Neely - Des Moines Police Department

Sgt. Paul Parizek - Des Moines Police Department

Elizabeth Presutti - Des Moines Area Regional Transit

Developers:

Kris Saddoris - Hubbell Realty

Alexander Grgurich - Nelson Construction

Andrew Lorentzen - Walker, Coen, Lorentzen

Misc.

Brian Sauer - Saturday Mfg.

Suzanne Hull - Des Moines European Heritage Association

Janet Metcalf - Broadlawns Medical Center Board of Trustees

Jody Jenner - Broadlawns Medican Center CEO

Joshua Barr - Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission

Social and Education Meetings in 2016: 2016 saw 13 distinct social event, and one educational event. Each was well attended and unique in their own right. I want to thank the social committee for working hard to provide these opportunities to the membership.

- 2016 Annual Meeting at Lurra Cocina
- DART Forward 2035
- 300 MLK
- Des Moines Bicycle Collective & Streetcar 209/Rooftop
- Iowa Cubs
- Des Moines Art Center
- Bubba
- National Night Out
- Coldwell Banker
- Better Homes and Gardens Test Gardens
- Ceviche Bar
- The Stuffed Olive
- Joseph’s Jewelers

- Splash

Meetings held and attended in 2016: The following list is a non-extensive list of the people and groups that I, and other board members, met with on behalf of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

- Chris Coleman, Des Moines City Council
- Bethan Wilcoxson, Capitol Crossroads
- Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Council
- Jennifer Chittenden, Downtown Chamber
- Jen McCory, City of Des Moines
- Frank Cownie, Des Moines Mayor
- Hubbell Realty stakeholder information gathering
- Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute
- Downtown Navigation Committee
- Connect Downtown Stakeholders
- Des Moines Neighbors
- Des Moines Budget Workshop
- Kum & Go Focus Group

Election of Board of Directors

Three candidates were introduced and spoke on their behalf

- Hanna Wolle
- Matt Ohloff
- Austin Lewis

Unanimous motion to elect the three candidates to the Board of Directors was made by voice vote.

Per the board: offices for 2017 will be designated as:

Tony Filippini - President
Deb Madison-Levi - Vice President
Austin Lewis - Treasurer
Matt Ohloff - Secretary
remaining board members will be board members at large:
Hanna Wolle
Chris Swailes
Scott McDonald

Meeting adjourned