

Downtown Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2014
6:00 pm
Saddlery Building
309 Court Ave.

1. Call Meeting to Order (Bradshaw)
 - a. Present: Bradshaw, Rowe, Talcott, Thompson
 - b. Guests: Tom Tarbox, Katie Harms (OPN Architects), Toby Olsen (OPN Architects), Pete Husch (Hy-Vee), Merry Cunningham, Chris Costs (Knapp Properties), Dick Hodges, Dale Engelken, Lloyd Kaufman, Doug Brooker, Jon Croft, John Claes (Lutheran Services in Iowa), Deb Amensen, Paul Bockewitz, April Hessenius Myers, Chris Ajluni
2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Rowe
 - i. Second: Thompson
 - ii. Motion passed
3. Officer Reports
 - a. President's Report (Bradshaw)
 - i. Skywalk Hours: member had contacted us about this; posted notice says it opens at 6 a.m., concerns about Y opening earlier and not being able to use
 - ii. 300 MLK Development: Bradshaw met with Rich Eychaner on this, reviewed zoning request; Board wrote letter of support, was approved; Eychaner thanked Board for support
 - iii. Safety PSA: Sgt. Neely and Sgt. Valdez made posting about pedestrian safety downtown; DMPD has funds for signage to promote education; Board appreciative of quick response from Sgt. Neely
 - iv. 420 Court Avenue Development: will revisit, Bradshaw has received a lot of letters
 - v. Food Bank Donations: Passed out one flyer for each building, try to collect donations and bring to December social at Splash
 - b. Treasurer's Report (Bradshaw)
 - i. Strong November for income, higher than last two years
 - ii. \$480.08 in expenses last month; income of \$585
 - iii. \$13,294.21 total in all accounts
 - iv. up approximately \$1900 on budget
 - v. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Rowe
 1. Second: Talcott
 2. Motion passed
 - vi. Lampe submitted resignation (moved out of downtown): Bradshaw read resignation letter to the Board
4. Guest Speakers
 - a. John Claes - LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa)



- i. Refugee Community Service Volunteers: since 1947 has been involved in settlement of refugees in Iowa; assist in getting housing, education, etc.
 - ii. Have started assisting in ongoing needs (work readiness, microenterprise grants, etc.)
 - iii. Message: refugees are part of community
 - iv. Challenges: (1) finding volunteers (programs are two days a week, morning and evening), (2) finding community garden opportunities for refugees.
- b. Clay Daggett, Americorps Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines: did not appear
- c. 420 Court Avenue Development: Knapp (Chris Costa COO), Hy-Vee (Pete Husch), OPN representatives (Toby Olsen and Katie Harms)
- i. Costa gave opening remarks
 1. Hy-Vee is also investor in the real estate project with Knapp
 2. Challenges along the way: City had major demands to meet - urban setting, Hy-Vee, housing aspect has been expanded upon in terms of city request (approx. 40 units expanded to approx. 80), parking (large emphasis early, City reviewed and changed, their belief is Court Ave. currently served appropriately, will have users of Hy-Vee/apartments served by their project not using other parking in Court Ave., City has said additional parking should be on north side of Court)
 - ii. Toby Olsen led a PowerPoint presentation
 1. Overview: street level Hy-Vee (with Market Grille on corner of 4th/Court), 81 units on 3 floors above (mix of sizes/BR), 100 stall surface lot, elevated parking structure for residential and employees, possibility of future phase along 5th (perhaps 25-30 apartments)
 2. Showed scematic views/renderings and explained developments
 3. Questions were taken:
 - a. Market rate? Yes.
 - b. Bike racks? Considering this.
 - c. How will liquor sales be handled? Have done it multiple ways at other stores, more likely to be gated.
 - d. How have noise issues been factored into development plans? Are considering this in architecture tricks.
 - e. Delivery trucks? Designed to keep heavy traffic off 4th Street; will come down 5th and back in.
 - f. Resident entrances? Now targeting only off of 5th, maybe considering others.



- iii. 3 new members for running for 2015-2016: Peggy Dandy; Paul Bockewitz; April Hessenius Myers
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership Report (Bradshaw):
 - i. 4 new members, 1 business (Panorama LakeLife); 11 renewals (2 business)
 - ii. 288 total now (190 residents, 23 non-residents, 75 businesses)
 - b. Social Media Report (Bradshaw): Numbers not available, but trending up
 - c. Socials: Splash 12/18, taking donations for Backpack Buddies
 - d. Capital Improvements (Chris Ajluni):
 - i. Looked at benches, seem to be upkeep issues; looking at bike rack rings, 2 separate locations; looking at West river park area (by red walking bridge); signage would cost \$30-100 depending on material; asking for \$2600 authorization to order the rings, they will go to Parks and Rec to install, then install signage
 - ii. Motion to approve \$2600 authorization to order rings: Thompson
 1. Second: Talcott
 2. Motion passed
 - iii. Ideas for 2015: looking at benches with charging stations; Rowe mentioned hotspot; air stations, water stations; neighborhood association signage
 7. New Business
 - a. Art Route (Rowe): involving a lot of stakeholders, competing for funds; idea is to create a route to allow people to view all public art in downtown; asking for support at meeting.
 - b. Downtown bridges (Rowe): Rowe has been going to meetings with City for Aesthetic Bridges Committee; survey showed people want to maintain arched bridges; first restoring Grand Ave. bridge and then Locust, ideas as to how to spend money on this.
 - c. Other Business:
 - i. Annual meeting - 1/21 or 1/28, location TBD; will elect new officers then.
 - ii. Next board meeting is 2/4/15.
 8. Police Crime Report (Sgt. Neely)
 - a. Not a lot going on; cold snap affects crime in a good way.
 - b. Report: Aggravated assaults: one domestic, one a road rage; burglaries: investigating various ATM attempted thefts, domestic, others not serious; narcotics: prescription drugs in both cases
 - c. Discussion of parking issues at homeless shelter.
 9. Motion to adjourn: Rowe
 - a. Second: Thompson
 - b. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.



Meeting adjourned