

**COMMON COUNCIL  
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MARCH 22, 2024**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Friday, March 22, 2024 in room A213 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. with Darren Peterson, Aaron Smith, and Megan Wiles present. Dave Johnson was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Community Development Director Sarah Reed, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head, Engineering Project Manager Andrew Rodewald, Serve Noblesville Executive Director Patrick Probst, Noblesville Main Street Executive Director Kate Baker, Noblesville Main Street Farmers Market Manager Maggie Williams, and Noblesville Main Street Board President Chris Thiesen, and Stephanie Smith of Madeline Lewis Designs. Noblesville Creates Executive Director Ailithir McGill arrived at 9:11 a.m.

Kate Baker, Patty Johnson, Patrick Probst, Aaron Smith, Stephanie Smith, Chris Thiesen, and Maggie Williams also serve on Noblesville Main Street's Design Committee, and this meeting was considered an official meeting of that committee for Noblesville Main Street's purposes.

Welcome

Mr. Smith stated there will be a formal agenda for next month's meeting. He stated this committee is focused on the Downtown District but will incorporate Parks as well. Mr. Light thanked Ms. Johnson for taking over interim leadership of the Parks and Recreation Department during the search for new leadership.

Parks Capital Projects Update

Mr. Light stated the Fox Prairie bunkers for the first 18 holes were renovated successfully. He stated next week the Board of Works will be asked for permission to advertise for bids for the phase II bunker renovation of the final nine holes.

Mr. Light stated a project is underway to activate more of Finch Creek Park. He stated phase I of the park included construction of the field house, installation of pickleball courts, and construction of a playground. He stated now phase II will be scoped, which will include outdoor fields and trails in the areas north and west of the field house, but still east of the creek that runs through the property. He stated Card and Associates have an option to purchase ten acres next to the field house, and that option will be incorporated into the scoping. He stated plans for the Noblesville Youth Sports Alliance and the Indiana Peony Festival also will be incorporated into the scoping. Mr. Rodewald displayed an aerial map of the park. Mr. Light stated most of the land west of the creek will remain undeveloped. He stated trail connections to adjacent neighborhoods may be added. Mr. Smith asked what the timeline of the project will be. Mr. Light stated the scoping should be completed this year. He stated the contract will be paid with Park Impact Fees.

Mr. Light stated the Parks Department is collaborating with Janus and Hamilton County for a possible dog park, trailhead, and housing and employment for people with disabilities. He stated BeeFree may use the kitchen at Janus' golf and batting facility for their products, and there may be a café. He stated Janus is working with Invest Hamilton County for a job training grant. He stated a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in the fall. He stated more details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Rodewald stated a bid will be awarded next week for construction of a drainage line between Logan Street and Forest Park. He stated the bid also will include construction of a trail from the Village at Federal Hill north to Forest Park. He stated the contractor will have to order materials, so once the materials arrive, work will most likely begin in late summer.

### Parks Events

Ms. Johnson stated the Easter Egg Hunt will take place tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. She stated a pancake breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis will be held prior to the easter egg hunt.

She stated a Preclipse party will be held on April 6, with food trucks included at the event.

Ms. McGill joined the meeting.

### Decorative Crosswalks

Mr. Smith asked if decorative crosswalks will be included in the trail and drainage project. Mr. Rodewald replied yes, they will. Mr. Smith asked if the crosswalks will be funded from the Downtown Development Fund. Mr. Rodewald replied yes, they will be.

Mr. Smith asked for an update on the decorative crosswalks adjacent to Seminary Park. Mr. Rodewald stated he just received a contract from the artist, so he will get quotes for the work. He stated he has submitted the concepts to the contractor, who has agreed to install the crosswalks. He stated they will not be installed in time for the Indiana Peony Festival, but all of the streets around the perimeter of the park will be paved before the festival. He stated paving will begin April 9.

### NAT Plan

Mr. Rodewald stated the Noblesville Alternative Transportation (NAT) Plan includes transportation facilities as well as trails, including specific priorities. Ms. Reed stated the Nickel Plate trail will be added, but it has its own plan and aesthetics. She stated Innovation Mile also has its own plan. She stated different consultants for individual projects will communicate with each other on the NAT plan for a broader scope. Mr. Rodewald stated the NAT Plan timeline will take priority, and the individual area plans will almost be appendices. Ms. Reed stated a formal update will be presented to the committee at the next meeting. Mr. Smith asked how often the NAT Plan is updated. Mr. Rodewald stated staff are trying to sync the NAT Plan update with the Park Impact Fees, so updates will be on the same schedule. Ms. Reed stated several large

projects are underway that did not exist at the time of the last update. She stated for the same reason, the City's Comprehensive Master Plan also needs to be updated. She stated several studies for these plans will be conducted next year.

### State Road 32 Reconstruction

Mr. Rodewald stated INDOT has sent an official notice of the closure to begin on April 1. He stated the intersection of Conner Street (State Road 32) and 16<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed in all directions for approximately three weeks. He stated timelines for individual phases will be flexible, but the overall project closure is expected to be 91 days. He stated when the 16<sup>th</sup> Street intersection reopens for north/south traffic, Conner Street will be closed from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street for Phase II. He stated Phase II will last from mid to late April to approximately June 5, when north/south traffic will reopen. He stated Phase III is scheduled to begin on June 6. He stated Phase III will be from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, with reconstruction of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection. He stated 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street will remain open. He stated work for the project will include storm sewer constructions, curb ramps, and replacement of the old, galvanized signal and sign poles with black decorative poles. He stated the street is scheduled to reopen by July 1, but flaggers will still be used while the street is resurfaced, so some traffic restrictions will continue. Ms. Baker stated the Street Dance is scheduled for July 20. She asked if the work would be completed by then. Mr. Rodewald replied the contractor should be able to give a better estimate by mid-May, but the work is weather dependent. He stated it is important to remain flexible. Ms. Baker agreed and stated a contingency plan will be in place. She stated the Street Dance is the biggest Main Street event. Ms. McGill asked if 16<sup>th</sup> and Conner Streets will be closed for the total solar eclipse on April 8. Mr. Rodewald replied yes, that is the schedule.

Mr. Smith asked when the INDOT projects on State Road 37 at 186<sup>th</sup> Street and 191<sup>st</sup> Street will be finished. Mr. Rodewald stated they will follow the State Road 32 reconstruction project. He stated only one side of State Road 37 will be closed at any given time. He stated a temporary feature will be installed at 186<sup>th</sup> Street to prevent crossing both directions of State Road 37 until the permanent project is constructed. Mr. Markwell stated the Chamber of Commerce has been working with INDOT on informational materials for the public concerning the projects. He asked if the City will be producing similar material. Mr. Smith stated Press Secretary Robert Herrington has some materials, and the website is helpful. Mr. Rodewald displayed the website [www.reconstructingsr32.com](http://www.reconstructingsr32.com) for the committee. He stated the contractor plans to work 24/7 to complete the project as quickly as possible.

### Three Four-way Flashers Project

Mr. Rodewald stated the contractor is waiting for Duke Energy to bury the power lines near the 10<sup>th</sup> and Hannibal Streets intersection so that power can be switched to the new signal poles. He stated he hopes the work will be completed in the next two weeks. He stated once 10<sup>th</sup> and Hannibal Streets is completed, then 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Maple Avenue will be finished, and 10<sup>th</sup> and Clinton Streets will be last. He stated because the new poles will be in the same locations as the current ones at 10<sup>th</sup> and Clinton Streets, no work can be completed in advance there. He stated a

4-way stop barrel will be used at the intersection while the poles are being replaced, and the work will be completed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Smith explained the project to the new committee members. He also explained the decorative crosswalks project. He stated one goal of the committee for this year is to better define Downtown to include areas on the west side of White River, and decorative crosswalks could be one element in defining the boundaries of Downtown. He stated a decorative crosswalk is also planned on Logan Street for the new trail from Federal Hill Commons to Forest Park. He stated the crosswalk will have a Farmers Market theme. Mr. Thiessen asked if the crosswalk would have safety features. Mr. Rodewald replied there will be a warning feature and strobe lights. He stated there are two crosswalks with the same features next to Noblesville High School, on Monument Street and on Field Drive. Ms. Smith asked if there would be a pedestrian crossing from Federal Hill toward Riverview Hospital. Mr. Rodewald replied no, there will not be, but INDOT does plan to add a pedestrian crossing at State Road 19.

### Development Updates

- Village at Federal Hill

Ms. Reed stated demolition will begin Monday on the Farmers Market plaza at Federal Hill Commons/Village at Federal Hill. She stated the plaza will be replaced by a retail activation lot. She stated the perimeter of the lot will be surrounded by bollards. She stated the lot will be used for retail parking during the week, but it will have gates to close it off for City events, such as the Farmers Market. She stated a permit will be issued today. She stated residents have moved into Building A of the Village at Federal Hill, and the parking garage is open. Mr. Smith asked when Building B will open. Ms. Reed replied it may open this summer. Mr. Smith asked if Nixon Street would be open for the Farmers Market. Ms. Reed replied Nixon Street can be accessed from State Road 32, but it will remain closed in the construction area for safety reasons. Ms. Baker stated she has spoken with City staff about needs for the Farmers Market, and she was satisfied that everyone is on the same page. Ms. Smith asked how the public will know when the parking garage is full. Mr. Light replied he will ask Denison Parking, who manages the parking garage. Ms. Reed stated the issue will be researched. Ms. Smith asked if the roundabout in Federal Hill Commons will connect to the retail activation lot. Ms. Reed replied no, it will not. She stated the idea was considered, but it was determined the connection would not be safe due to pedestrian traffic in the area.

- East Bank

Ms. Reed stated the east building is close to opening, but the parking garage is not open yet. She stated a conditional approval for the garage may be granted so that residents in the east building will be able to park. She stated approval is needed from the building commissioner and the fire marshal first. Mr. Smith stated every apartment has interesting views. He stated the building is unique to Noblesville. Ms. Reed stated there is an internal plaza that could be used for resident gatherings. Ms. McGill stated there are opportunities for artwork, and the marketing team has

been great to work with. Mr. Smith asked if there could be alley activation within the project. Ms. McGill stated there is a unique opportunity there.

Ms. McGill asked if the City would promote detours for events during the construction projects in Downtown. Mr. Light replied yes, staff are working to address the issue. Ms. Reed stated INDOT recommends using Google Maps as the best detour finder. Mr. Head stated INDOT is obligated to designate state roads for official detours. He stated when Bier Brewery had its recent grand opening, it advertised its own detours. He stated local events that have mostly local attendees may be better off creating their own detour materials. Ms. McGill expressed concern that detour information could be lost on the Noblesville Creates website. Ms. Baker stated Main Street links to the City's website. Mr. Smith asked Robert Herrington to send his materials to members of the committee. Mr. Rodewald stated he receives updates from INDOT once per month. He stated timelines can be very fluid, so the best information is found on a project's website. Mr. Smith asked if the committee could use Downtown Development Fund dollars to print flyers for events as a low-cost method of supporting Downtown groups. Mr. Rodewald stated the City already has business cards with Quick Response (QR) codes for projects. The committee agreed to fund the flyers. Ms. Johnson suggested offering the flyers to Downtown merchants. Mr. Smith agreed that was a good idea. Ms. Smith stated the flyers would be needed by April 20. Mr. Smith agreed.

Mr. Rodewald stated the only road closures on April 8 for the total solar eclipse will be Allisonville Road at 146<sup>th</sup> Street and the intersection of Conner and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Ms. McGill stated Noblesville Creates plans to send out detour instructions to likely attendees. Mr. Head stated Logan Street will be open for use. Mr. Rodewald stated the schools have requested to use Logan Street, and there is no engineering reason preventing them from using it.

#### Other Business

Mr. Smith stated at the next meeting, boundaries for the Downtown District will be discussed, as well as updates to the NAT Plan and development updates.


#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.



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AARON SMITH, COMMITTEE CHAIR



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EVELYN LEES, CLERK  
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE