

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. Rick Taylor, Greg O'Connor, Darren Peterson, and Megan Wiles were present.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Clerk Charlene Cook, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Planning Director Sarah Reed, Economic Development Specialist Aaron Head, Bob DuBois, President of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce; Craig Crosser of Nova 29 and Board President of Noblesville Main Street; Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts; and Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street. Dan Stevens of the Hamilton County Commissioners' office arrived at 3:53 p.m. Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke arrived at 4:13 p.m. Matteo DiRosa and Esther Lakes were absent.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order.

Announcements

Mr. Taylor congratulated Mr. Head for the Lights over Seminary Christmas display at Seminary Park. Approximately 200 people attended the official lighting on December 7th. The NOBLESVILLE letters have been popular, with many people having their pictures taken standing next to them. Mr. Head stated the Planning Department won the Christmas tree contest.

1) Streetscape Plan approved - \$94,000

Mr. Taylor stated the Council approved the expenditure at their November 13th meeting.

2) First payment for light repainting approved - \$15,000

Mr. Taylor stated the Council also approved this expenditure at their November 13th meeting. He explained the rest of the needed funding will have to be approved in 2019. Ms. Johnson stated the work is set to begin after the holidays.

3) Moving forward with:

a. The rest of the lights, benches, trash bins, and bollards

Mr. Taylor stated the Council has been advised of the Committee's plan for Downtown and will approve the funding as needed. He stated planters need to be ordered soon in order to be ready for spring. Ms. Johnson stated the current planters cannot be converted to trash bins as she first thought. The planters don't have a door for removing the trash. Ms. McGill suggested the planters be moved to the alleys. Mr. Taylor asked if more street lights will be ordered. The committee agreed they should be. Ms. Johnson will get an estimate of the cost. Mr. Taylor suggested ordering 50 to 60 lights.

b. Parking lot lights?

This item was not discussed.

4) Any updates from the last meeting

a. Duke light poles

Ms. Reed met with a Duke Energy representative; they do not offer the same pole the City uses. She stated there are several options, and we can ask them to purchase our poles going forward. She stated the City is not eligible for grants from Duke, but she is investigating other grant possibilities. She stated Duke offered to share their GIS data to help us identify which street lights belong to them.

b. INDOT poles

Ms. Reed stated Deputy Mayor Cooke met with INDOT about replacing the current galvanized traffic signal poles with black ones, and he found that black is an option INDOT offers, and he plans to follow up. She stated she is planning an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to require the light poles we want.

c. Alley activation

Ms. McGill stated the bollards have been delivered for the north and east alleys. She has ordered a one-piece table and chairs for the north alley; she has also ordered Wi-Fi charging stations and may order safety mirrors. She stated she has contacted the people who would be directly affected by the alley closure and received a wide variety of responses. Because the buildings are so old, alley work could cause damage or water leaks. Mr. Peterson pointed out that some of the problems occurred with the visitors center when the south alley was closed, but the problems were fixed. There was a discussion about further engaging the building owners and tenants. Ms. McGill stated because people are lingering in the alleys now, they should be closed for safety reasons. Ms. Johnson stated it would be best to wait for warmer weather to do the concrete work for installing the bollards. It was decided that written releases should be obtained from the building owners on the alleys. Ms. Reed will have a release drafted. She stated it would be best to have the releases recorded against the deeds to the properties.

Ms. Reed mentioned encouraging new dumpsters in the alley perpendicular to the east alley to make it more attractive. Ms. McGill stated the Nickel Plate Arts could paint new dumpsters. There was a discussion about trash collection for businesses and where it might be better located.

d. Seminary Park – hoping to have the design finished and out to bid in February

Mr. Taylor stated the design for the park is near completion. There was a discussion about keeping the NOBLESVILLE letters up all year, but they would need to be remade of more

durable material. Ms. Johnson noted they may seem more special if they are only displayed at Christmas. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Peterson agreed.

e. Artwork at parking lot #4

Mr. Head stated Randy's Toy Shop had asked for a mural on the side of their building. He encouraged them to apply for a façade improvement grant. Ms. McGill noted the condition of the brick may need to be improved before a mural could be painted. Mr. Head stated he would follow up with the owners.

Mr. Head left the meeting.

Mr. Cooke arrived and updated the committee on his meeting with INDOT concerning the traffic signal poles. He stated there are two options: there are black poles, and more decorative, more expensive poles. He noted INDOT requires the City to buy two poles each, so that we have a spare. He stated they are willing to enter into an agreement with the City, but it will bid in 2020 for 2021 construction. The committee asked if black poles could be ordered now for the crosswalk at Logan Street and State Road 19, where there is currently construction. Mr. Cooke replied he will follow up with INDOT and email the options to the committee. Mr. Stevens stated the Logan Street Pedestrian Bridge over White River is on track to open in August 2019.

5) 2019 Projects for Discussion

a. Light at 10th and Logan (change to a Downtown street light?)

Mr. Taylor noted there is a cobra head street light at 10th and Logan Streets that should be changed to match the other street lights if possible. Ms. Johnson replied it may belong to Duke Energy, but she will follow up to see if it could be upgraded with the other poles.

b. Public Safety Building sidewalks

Mr. Taylor noted using a diamond shape with a few star bricks instead of a ribbon around the Public Safety Building would use fewer bricks and would be more attractive. There was a discussion concerning the use of diamond-shaped inserts in sidewalks Downtown as suggested on page 110 of the Streetscape Master Plan. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Reed plan to test granite to see if it will work for the inserts.

c. Landscaping in front of lot #4 behind Kirk's Hardware

Mr. Taylor stated there are three small areas, but they could be improved. Ms. Johnson stated landscaping was planted before, but people walking their dogs killed the plants. Ms. Reed suggested planters like the ones on page 111 of the Streetscape Master Plan, perhaps surrounded by mulch. It was agreed that mulch could accommodate the dogs while planters would protect the plants. Ms. Reed suggested doggie stations with plastic bags and trash receptacles might help.

d. 10th and Logan paving to brick street repairs

Mr. Taylor stated the concrete crosswalks at 14th and 15th Streets and Logan Street, where concrete is next to asphalt and brick looks very nice and should be used elsewhere. Ms. Reed and Ms. Johnson will forward the information to the Engineering Department. Ms. Reed noted the concrete crosswalks also are a good canvas for to paint with artwork.

e. Design standards to the Downtown District

The Planning Department is working to add design standards to the UDO.

f. Wayfinding signs to be consistent in the Downtown District

Mr. Taylor stated the wayfinding signs are not consistent. Ms. Reed stated some hanging flower baskets may need to be moved to other locations in order to make the signs easier to see. There was a discussion concerning flower boxes on sidewalks and standards for outdoor seating at Downtown restaurants. The City will partner with Main Street to engage the business owners concerning any new standards. The committee set spring as a goal to rollout new standards. Ms. McGill noted Valentine's Day and Welcome to Fairyville will be engagement events early next year.

Other business:


Ms. Wiles asked Mr. Cooke to press INDOT for black signal poles sooner than they initially offered. Mr. Cooke replied he will try.

Mr. Taylor noted if the items discussed in this meeting are put into place, the first 50 pages of the Streetscape Master Plan will be accomplished. He stated a press release should be issued soon.

The next meeting will be January 22nd at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.


RICK TAYLOR, COMMITTEE CHAIR


EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK