

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Rick Taylor, Wil Hampton, Darren Peterson, and Megan Wiles were present.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Economic Development Director Judi Johnson, Planning Department Assistant Director Caleb Gutshall, Economic Development Specialist Aaron Head, Andrew Rodewald of the Engineering Department; Esther Lakes of Smith Jewelers; Craig Crosser of Nova 29 and Board President of Noblesville Main Street; Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts; Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street; and Diana Lynch of the Hamilton County Commissioners' office. Bob DuBois and Matteo DiRosa were absent.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order.

Old Business:

1) Alley Activation Information

A) Kirks Hardware meeting

Mr. Taylor stated the meeting did not go well.

B) Business/Tenants meetings?

Judi Johnson stated she and Ms. McGill met to discuss a procedure for communicating with Downtown businesses and the best way to approach them. She stated they may have an outreach breakfast or lunch to apologize for the former lack of communication and then explain the benefits of alley activation and address concerns. Ms. McGill will work with the Economic Development Department and Main Street to engage the building owners and tenants. Ms. Johnson stated a proactive method of communication is being devised to keep Downtown merchants informed concerning disruptions from construction. She stated their goal is to have communications in place by March, when construction on the Levinson is expected to begin. Mr. Head noted it is important to make sure both building owners and tenants receive the same information. Ms. Wiles stated the information campaign Fishers has used for the S.R. 37 project might provide ideas. Mr. Cooke noted he is meeting with the Police Department to move permitted parking spaces to other lots during construction on the Levinson. He stated they are working on a robust communication campaign, but the process will be painful no matter what is done. Several methods of communication were discussed. The committee agreed that responsive, consistent communication is needed.

There was also a discussion concerning access in the east alley and the north/south alley that intersects with it, and how best to communicate with the affected businesses. Mr. Taylor noted

closing the north alley should not be too difficult, but more research is needed before attempting to close the east alley.

Ms. McGill distributed a flyer for Eceptacle.com, which is a “smart” trash can with Wi-Fi and interactive capabilities. She noted there is an informational video on their website. She stated she has not yet received a quote with pricing.

Ms. McGill stated she was at the Statehouse this morning to testify concerning cultural district funding. She stated the funding would be similar to a TIF district, but would capture sales and income tax. She noted the municipality would have to approve and match the funding, but she believes the Downtown Development Fund would qualify as matching funds. She stated the measure was passed out of the committee and will move next to the Senate and then the House of Representatives.

A release of liability has been prepared for property owners next to the alleys, but it will be presented to them after regular communication has been established and their questions have been answered.

Ms. McGill left the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Mr. Taylor referred to utility nodes in the Streetscape plan on page 104. He stated construction on the alleys and the Levinson would be the time to install the utility nodes as well. Patty Johnson offered to get quotes, but Mr. Peterson stated he believes Ms. McGill already has the information. There was a question as to whether the City would vacate the alleys, but they will only be closed to vehicular traffic and not vacated.

2) Seminary Park

Mr. Rodewald stated a bid opening is planned for March 1st, but the current partial federal government shutdown affects the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which awards the grant that will fund approximately two thirds of the project. Mr. Rodewald stated if HUD reopens by March 1st, there will be no problem; if it does not reopen, they will have to re-evaluate the options.

3) Downtown Planters/Pots

Mr. Taylor stated the committee needs to choose planters so that they can be ordered and installed in the spring. There was a discussion concerning what type and how many planters were needed. Ms. Lakes will research appropriate planters and get pricing.

4) Agreement for Downtown Business Owners

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. Agreements will not be presented to business owners until there has been more communication first.

5) INDOT/Duke Energy/amendments to the UDO for streetlights

Patty Johnson stated the Duke Energy light poles are slightly different from the City's poles, but the average person would probably not notice. She noted they do not have bracket arms for hanging flowers or banners. She stated the Duke Energy poles are on the north side of Logan Street between S.R. 19 and S.R. 38, and there are several on Conner Street east of 10th Street. She stated she will bring a firm number to the next meeting. Ms. Wiles stated the ideal scenario would be for the City to buy our light poles, then Duke would maintain them. Mr. Rodewald stated we would have to keep replacement stock if any poles need to be replaced. Ms. Johnson noted we already have replacement stock, so that is not a problem.

Mr. Cooke stated per INDOT, the current traffic signal poles would cost \$4,000.00 per intersection to repaint. Mr. Taylor asked for a total price for all intersections in the Downtown District. Ms. Wiles asked for pricing on more decorative poles. Mr. Cooke noted they will be more expensive, plus the City would have to purchase spares. Ms. Wiles acknowledged the cost but noted the decorative poles would make more of an impact. She stated she would also like to have the poles that only suspend signs over Conner Street to be painted black as well. Mr. Rodewald stated INDOT is willing to paint the poles, but he is not sure of their position about using decorative poles.

Patty Johnson stated the first black light poles have been painted. She asked the committee if when the quad poles on the Square are taken down for painting, should the spots be covered or should they be replaced with a single globe pole. She noted she does not have any spare quad poles. Mr. Taylor stated they should be replaced with a single light for safety. There was a discussion about buying more quad poles to place on Maple Street near the Levinson. Mr. Cooke stated he would check with the developer to see what they have planned.

Patty Johnson noted Riverside Cemetery is also in the Downtown District and has street lights. She asked if the committee would like to have those painted black as well. The committee agreed they should be. Ms. Lees noted there is already a black fence surrounding the cemetery.

6) Public Safety Building sidewalk repairs quote

Patty Johnson stated she does not have quotes yet; work will be done in the summer.

New Business:

1) Design Standards for the Downtown District

Mr. Taylor stated arriving at design standards will be difficult. Judi Johnson asked if businesses will be held to the City's design standards. Mr. Gutshall replied only if they do work in the right-of-way. Patty Johnson noted those painting murals will need to apply for encroachment permits to set up their work on sidewalks or in alleys. Mr. Gutshall stated the Planning Department has different requirements for signage and art on buildings; each project has to be evaluated.

- 2) Wayfinding signs need to be consistent in the Downtown District?
- 3) Updated Parking Lot Signs

These items will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 4) Pedestrian upgrades to Logan Street and State Road 19

Mr. Taylor asked if construction of the pedestrian bridge over the river will include room on the west side of S.R. 19 for pedestrians to cross. Mr. Rodewald replied yes, there will be. He stated with the overlook that is being constructed on the south side of the bridge, it will become the primary side for pedestrian traffic to cross. He explained this should improve safety, since it is most dangerous for pedestrians to cross S.R. 19 on the north side of Logan Street where cars make right turns northbound. Mr. Taylor asked if a safety island could be constructed in the middle of S.R. 19. Mr. Rodewald replied we would have to work with the State, since that is their road. He noted the State does not usually construct islands, but he will ask.

Mr. Rodewald distributed renderings of existing street light poles and choices of street lights for the pedestrian bridge and the Riverwalk beneath. He stated the County has asked the committee for their preferences in the Downtown District. He stated the County has committed to using lighting consistent with the committee's vision for Downtown. He noted the existing light poles and handrails on the Riverwalk are light grey, but the County is willing to install black poles of the committee's preference on top of the bridge. He stated the County has committed to maintaining the light poles on the bridge and underneath the bridge. There was a brief discussion concerning lighting for safety and decorative light poles. The committee decided the black acorn light poles would fit the theme for Downtown best. Ms. Johnson asked if the poles would have electric receptacles and bracket arms like the poles around the Square. Mr. Rodewald replied he is not sure, but he will ask.

Other Business:

Mr. Gutshall noted an ordinance is needed to define the district's boundaries, since they fluctuated during the Streetscape study and there are several versions.

Ms. Wiles stated she has been told there was once a drinking fountain at the southeast corner of Logan and 9th Streets. Mr. Rodewald and Ms. Johnson replied no connections exist, and there has not been a drinking fountain at that location. Mr. Peterson stated an art hydration station will be installed in the south alley.

The next meeting will be February 19th at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Taylor suggested beginning earlier in order to end the meeting by 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



RICK TAYLOR, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK

