

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Tuesday, April 15, 2019. Rick Taylor, Megan Wiles, and Darren Peterson were present. Wil Hampton was absent.

Also present were Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke, Deputy Clerk Charlene Cummings, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Parks Director Brandon Bennett, Economic Development Specialist Aaron Head, Wastewater Utility Director Ray Thompson; Planning Director Sarah Reed; Planning Department Assistant Director Caleb Gutshall; Andrew Rodewald of the Engineering Department; Craig Crosser of Nova 29 and Board President of Noblesville Main Street; Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street; Esther Lakes of Smith's Jewelers; Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts; Bob DuBois, President of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce; and Dan Stevens of the Hamilton County Commissioners' office. Matteo DiRosa was absent.

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Old Business:

1) Update on Alley Activation (Aaron Head)

Mr. Head stated there is a meeting on April 16th in Room A214 for building owners, tenants, residents, and anyone else interested in hearing details about the Alley Activation. He stated the invitations were hand-delivered to buildings on the north side of Logan Street and on the east side of 9th Street south to Conner Street. He stated Chris Jensen, the Council Arts and Culture liaison, will be there to give a quick welcome to attendees. Mr. Head stated he is still talking to business owners about deliveries in the east alley. Ms. Johnson asked when she can install the bollards. Ms. McGill responded she will have a date soon. Ms. McGill stated Nickel Plate Arts did not receive the Our Town Grant, but there were over 1,000 applications for four grants. She stated other grants are being explored. Mr. Head stated as part of the Alley Activation, he and Mr. Thompson would like to contact the building owners for permission to map any attributes that might be in each basement. He stated they would like to create GIS locates on coal shoots, steam pipes, plumbing, and utilities for reference during alley renovations. Mr. Thompson stated when the brick sewer was lined last year, they were able to identify where the lateral sanitary sewer hook-ups are connected to the main sewer line. He stated what they don't know is where the lines tie in to the buildings. He stated if these can be entered into GIS, then if sidewalk work needs to be done, they will have the information to avoid potential problems. Mr. Head stated they can't force the business owners to grant access to their basements, but they will be informed this is a mapping service that would be provided to them free of charge.

2) Update on Downtown business & building owner engagement (Aaron Head)

This item was discussed with the previous item.

3) Update on Planters (Esther Lakes)

Ms. Wiles stated she and Ms. Lakes went to Sundown Gardens to look at planters. She stated she sent pictures of the planters to the committee members. She stated they were informed the concrete planters would be more durable, with a choice of finished or unfinished. Ms. Johnson offered to order them. She stated the planters should be delivered directly to where each one will be set; this way the risk is on the delivery company versus City employees trying to move heavy concrete planters. Ms. Wiles stated 51 of the smaller Marin planters and 36 larger, Urbino planters are needed. She stated the cost of unfinished planters is \$35,829.00 and \$42,660.00 for finished planters. Ms. Wiles stated Sundown Gardens gave a 20% discount on the planters. She stated she has not heard back from Allisonville Nursery or Gatewood's for their pricing, but she will contact them one more time. Mr. Bennett stated he, Mr. Peterson, and two Park employees surveyed Downtown to arrive at the number of planters that are needed. He stated the initial spring planting will be put in the old planters, but the summer flowers can be put in the new planters once they are placed. Mr. Bennett stated one thing that hadn't been mentioned was potting soil for all of the planters, which will cost approximately \$5,000.00. The committee affirmed the results of the survey: to recommend buying the Urbino/Marin planters and soil, and then placing the planters on the brick ribbon in the sidewalk, away from the buildings. The committee recommended purchasing the finished planters for increased durability. Ms. Wiles stated she will forward the information to Ms. Johnson to place the order. Mr. Taylor stated the Council will be asked to appropriate funding at its next meeting.

4) Update on Street Lights (Patty Johnson)

Ms. Johnson stated she has ordered 50 more street lights, besides the 30 that are being replaced. She stated there has been a delay because the manufacturing plant is in Nebraska, which has had extreme flooding this year. She stated she is not sure when the next delivery will be, but this should not be a problem. Ms. McGill asked if there are plans for painting the other miscellaneous items Downtown. Ms. Johnson replied they are painting all of the directional signage poles and anything else that is on the sidewalks. Ms. Johnson asked if the bicycle racks should be painted or replaced with something more creatively designed. She noted they have been in place for some time and are showing rust. Ms. McGill stated she will research artistic bike racks. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to paint the racks until a decision has been made on replacing them.

a) INDOT cost estimate for poles (standard vs. decorative) (Sarah Reed)

Mr. Rodewald stated INDOT has two signal pole options. He stated they will replace the signal poles at the Conner Street intersections at 8th Street, 9th Street, and 10th Street in 2021. He stated INDOT will replace the poles, put in new smaller foundations, and run new conduit. He stated the City's only cost will be to reimburse INDOT for the cost of painting the poles black for \$1,000.00 per pole for 12 poles, plus an extra pole for replacement stock. He stated decorative poles would cost the City approximately \$10,000.00 per pole, and INDOT will not bear any cost of the pole. He stated if the committee decides to use decorative poles, the project would not be completed until 2022 due to extra environmental

reviews. He stated INDOT needs a decision by April 29th. He stated the galvanized poles that suspend signs across Conner Street will be completely removed. He stated there are an additional 26 signal poles elsewhere in the Downtown District, some of which belong to INDOT. He stated he cannot guarantee that INDOT would offer the same cost for those poles, because INDOT is not planning a project for them at this time. Mr. Rodewald recommended delaying sidewalk projects to coordinate with any signal/conduit replacement projects. He stated to do otherwise is not cost effective. Ms. Reed stated the standard poles painted black are a clean look that will work well for a good price. Several members of the committee stated they would prefer the decorative poles, but as taxpayers, they struggled to justify spending the extra money for decorative poles. The committee agreed to recommend standard black poles for INDOT's project. Mr. Rodewald cautioned against replacing signal poles elsewhere, because the project could involve much more extensive work to pour new foundations and cut streets and sidewalks. He stated painting the existing signal poles would cost much less and would be much less disruptive; it would be similar to painting the street light poles. Ms. Johnson noted INDOT may allow the City to paint their poles; we will have to wait for their project. Mr. Rodewald stated he could ask for permission to paint the poles at the intersections on State Road 19. Ms. Wiles stated if INDOT will allow us to paint their poles, we should paint all the signal poles now; but if INDOT will not grant permission, painting the other signal poles should wait until INDOT's project in 2021. The committee agreed.

5) Update on Seminary Park (Brandon Bennett)

Mr. Bennett stated since the bid came in well over budget, it was determined by the City Attorney and the County administrator for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that the project needs to be rebid. Mr. Bennett stated he has worked with Mr. Rodewald to pull some items from the project that the Parks Department potentially could complete. Mr. Bennett stated the anticipated timeline for a new bid opening is May 10th with a potential special Park Board Meeting to award the bid on May 15th. He stated the electrical specifications will be redefined, since they were a very expensive part of the project. He stated because there are federal dollars involved, the Davis-Bacon wage scale must be used. He stated the updated design should be complete in the next two weeks. He stated the rebid should not affect the original schedule; he noted the landscaping will be installed in the fall regardless. He stated the street lights that match the ones in Downtown will cost \$5,500.00 each. He stated he met with Ms. McGill, and they are working on a design standard for signage and the gateway arches for the alleys and Seminary Park. Mr. Taylor asked if everything goes well, will any work take place this summer. Mr. Bennett assured the committee that construction will move forward this summer. He stated he hopes for a completion date before the Christmas season.

6) Update on expenditures from the Downtown Development Fund (Steve Cooke)

Mr. Cooke distributed a list of expenditures from Downtown funding for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

New Business:

1) Lights for Riverwalk north of Logan Street (Rick Taylor)

Mr. Taylor stated there are no lights on the Riverwalk because of construction on the Logan Street pedestrian bridge. Mr. Rodewald stated the Riverwalk is closed from the pocket park to Conner Street due to the construction. Mr. Taylor stated now is the time to research installing lights on the Riverwalk. Mr. Bennett replied there are lights under the bridge. He stated the City does not usually light trails because they are only open from dawn until dusk. He stated the Riverwalk scenario is different however, since it is a highly traveled area Downtown, and its use should be encouraged. Mr. Rodewald stated he thinks there are no lights in that section because the Riverwalk is a boardwalk between Logan Street and the pocket park. There was a brief discussion about possible lighting options. Mr. Taylor felt lighting is a priority there for safety reasons, and he would like to explore possibilities.

Mr. Bennett stated a few years ago he received a quote on lighting the silhouettes of the buildings Downtown during Christmas. He said it was about \$5,000.00 a block at the time. He stated the biggest challenge was getting permission from the building owners. He stated this might be an opportunity to revisit the program, along with the other communications with the building owners. Mr. Bennett stated these would be LED lights, and the project would be similar to what is done in Bloomington.

Ms. Wiles stated on the west side of the Judicial Center the County has lighting that doesn't match the Downtown District design. She stated she is obtaining quotes for replacing the light poles with our design; if the County is not willing to pay for replacing these with black poles to match Federal Hill Commons, perhaps the City can cost-share with them. She encouraged the committee to speak with the County Commissioners and Council.

Andrew Rodewald left the meeting at 4:30.

2) Public Safety Building sidewalk replacements (Patty Johnson)

Ms. Johnson stated design for the sidewalk is complete. She stated the Engineering Department will work with her on this project. She stated she is working with Facilities Manager David Dale on the City Hall sidewalk ribbon as well. She stated she assumes the work will need to be bid. Ms. Wiles noted the design is a concrete square with a diamond-shape inset made of eight star bricks.

3) Banners and placement of hanging flowers on Street Lights (Rick Taylor)

Mr. Taylor stated the master plan for putting banners and flower pots on alternating poles should be followed. Ms. Johnson stated she had her crew put brackets for banners and flowers on every pole as a matter of convenience, but they will follow the plan. Ms. Reed stated several departments have worked together to create a GIS map of exactly what pole will have what

items, whether it be a banner, a flower pot, or street signage. Mr. Bennett stated his department has already ordered flowers for 50 hanging baskets, so they will explore other locations to hang the extra baskets. Ms. Reed stated they are working on design standards for the banners to know exactly what size they should be. There was a brief discussion about banner standards. Mr. Taylor stated if new standards are put in place, it is important to inform the groups who have banners. Mr. Peterson suggested Main Street should contact groups about the new banner standards. The committee agreed July 1st will be the deadline for new banner standards, but events soon after that date should be allowed to continue to use their old banners this year. Ms. Reed stated she will bring recommendations for standards to the next meeting.

1) Other Business

Ms. McGill asked to add an item to the agenda next month regarding a human and pet hydration station for the south alley.

Ms. Wiles stated she and Mr. Taylor were contacted by Sadie Hunter from the Current for a story about the Downtown District Committee. She stated they met on two occasions to explain how the Committee came about and its progress in implementing the streetscape plan. She stated they don't know when the article will be published, but it is forthcoming.

Mr. DuBois suggested taking pictures of the Downtown improvements as they occur in order to track the projects.

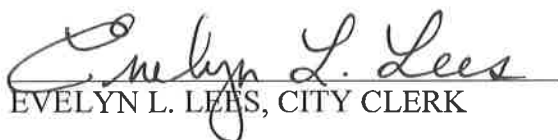
Mr. Cooke stated the Parking Lot #3, where the Levinson will be located, will close on May 6th.

The next meeting will be May 13th at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.


RICK TAYLOR, COMMITTEE CHAIR


EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK

