

**COMMON COUNCIL  
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, June 17, 2019. Darren Peterson and Megan Wiles were present. Wil Hampton was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Parks Director Brandon Bennett, Planning Director Sarah Reed, Planning Department Assistant Director Caleb Gutshall, Andrew Rodewald of the Engineering Department; Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street; Brooke Heckenberg, intern for Main Street; Esther Lakes of Smith's Jewelers; Bob DuBois, President of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce; Craig Crosser of Nova 29 and Board President of Noblesville Main Street; and Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts. Economic Development Specialist Aaron Head arrived at 3:25 p.m. Steve Cooke, Dan Stevens, and Matteo DiRosa were absent.

Mr. Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Old Business:**

1) Seminary Park (Brandon Bennett)

Mr. Bennett stated the contract with Myers Construction Management, Inc. was approved last Tuesday, and a pre-construction meeting was held a few days after. He stated construction is set to begin in mid-August with completion by the end of October. He noted this timing is ideal for installation of landscaping. He stated funding for the project will come from the Community Development Block Grant, the Parks budget, and Park Impact fees. He stated he may request funding from the Downtown Development Fund for owner-provided architectural elements, but he is still working to determine pricing. He stated the Request for Qualifications for gateway arches is still in development but should be finished soon.

2) Status Report on the Levinson Project (Steve Cooke)

Mr. Peterson stated the south alley will be reopened to authorized traffic only. A Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by affected businesses and will be considered by the Board of Public Works and Safety on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Johnson stated the public restrooms will only have access from the interior of the building instead of the alley, so access will be limited to when the Noble Made shop is open. She stated the Fire Department has approved the change. She stated signs will be installed in the alley indicating "Authorized Vehicles Only", "No Outlet", and that the alley will be shared by vehicles and pedestrians. Ms. Steele suggested mirrors to help people see what is coming, but Ms. Johnson stated the mirrors can reflect into oncoming traffic on Conner Street and blind drivers. Ms. Wiles asked how long the alley will be open to vehicles. Ms. Johnson replied it will be open as long as the east/west alley remains closed. She noted that a group that had planned to hold events in the south alley will hold them in the north alley instead.

She stated the benches have already been removed for painting, so only the wind sails and Edison lights are will need to be removed.

Ms. Johnson stated 9<sup>th</sup> Street between Conner Street and Maple Avenue will be closed for approximately 2 weeks for utility work. There was a discussion concerning updates to the Noblesville NOW website regarding these changes. Ms. Reed noted citizens should call the Mayor's office at 317-776-6324 with questions; there is a routing procedure in place to provide accurate, knowledgeable answers.

Mr. DuBois stated the new parking meter kiosks and enforcement software will be presented to the Board of Public Works and Safety for approval very soon. He stated he hopes for a 90-day education window for the public. Ms. Wiles agreed it is important for the public to have time to learn the new system. Ms. Reed distributed a graphic of color-coded signs for the City parking lots. She explained the sign colors match the colors on the parking map that has been distributed. Language on the signs indicates when parking is paid and free. She stated the signs will be presented to the Hamilton County Commissioners as well in hopes that they will approve the same signage for County lots. She stated if they do, there will be uniform signs for parking throughout Downtown. She noted the signs will be paid for from the Parking Meter Fund. She stated stickers will be placed on the existing signs until the new signs are installed. The committee approved of the new design.

### 3) Alley Activation and Deactivation (Aaron Head, Patty Johnson)

Mr. Head stated the east alley is used too much to be completely closed and may only be able to be closed temporarily for events. Ms. Johnson stated temporary bollards can be installed to use for closures. Ms. McGill stated articulating arches can be installed that can open for when the alley is open to vehicles. She stated it is important to have a smart design. There was a discussion concerning ease of movement for trucks in the alley and an arch design that would not impede semi-trailers. The committee agreed this may be an issue for the Traffic Committee to study before any definite steps are taken.

Ms. Johnson stated Morphe Construction will install the bollards and do the concrete and electrical work in the north alley, but timing will depend on their schedule. She stated with the rainy weather we have had this spring, all of the contractors are very busy trying to make up for rain delays. Mr. Head noted the contract with Morphe will need to be approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety, and funding will need to be appropriated by the Council. He stated less money will be needed than previously thought, since the focus will be only on the north alley. Ms. Johnson stated she will contact Controller Spalding to add the appropriation transfer to the Finance Committee agenda.

### 4) Lighting Update (Patty Johnson)

Ms. Johnson stated street light poles are on order. She stated all of the black poles we currently have are installed. She noted one wayfinding sign pole on Logan Street has been painted black and looks nice.

Mr. Rodewald stated decorative black signal poles will be installed by INDOT at the intersections on Conner Street in 2022. He stated the Engineering Department is evaluating signal poles throughout the City.

5) Banners and Placement of Hanging Flowers on Street Lights Standards (Sarah Reed)

Ms. Johnson stated all banners and hanging flowers are installed. Ms. Reed stated her department is still working on banner standards, and new banners will arrive soon. Ms. McGill noted the Arts Council will have new banners in the spring of 2020, so they will need the new standards by January.

Ms. Johnson stated the planters have been ordered from Allisonville Nursery and will be installed in October for the fall plantings.

**New Business:**

1) City Hall Deferred Maintenance Progress (Darren Peterson)

Mr. Peterson stated a large maintenance project for the exterior of City Hall will take place soon. Mr. Bennett stated the contractor will be hired through Gordian, which is a state program that works very well. Mr. Peterson stated he would like the words "Noblesville City Hall," which are engraved in the limestone façade of the building, to be painted black to be more visible. The committee agreed he should speak with Facilities Manager David Dale.

2) District Event Calendar and Ownership (Brandon Bennett)

Mr. Bennett stated he and Ms. Johnson are working on a calendar that captures all events for scheduling and work purposes. He stated he is currently working with Nickel Plate Arts to coordinate events. He stated the Parks Department hopes to have new software by January 1, 2020 that could have the capability to expand beyond Parks events. He stated he will research further. Mr. Peterson stated it would be helpful to have a calendar available to the public so that someone planning an event could easily check availability.

3) Standards for Outdoor Dining Boundary Fencing (Patty Johnson)

Ms. Johnson brought samples of fencing and shared a catalogue with pictures of the fencing she recommends to surround outdoor dining at Downtown restaurants. She stated the fencing must be 36 inches high. She stated the samples are black aluminum decorative fencing without spikes, but with circular ornamentation near the top that echoes the architectural arches found throughout Downtown. She stated she would like to install the fencing at Texy Mexy as a test. She noted other businesses could see the fencing and how it will work. She stated the fencing would belong to the City and be installed and removed by the Street Department. The committee approved the fencing and agreed that encroachment permit fees for outdoor dining should be increased to help defray the cost of the fencing. Ms. McGill stated with uniform fencing, individual businesses could make creative A-frame signs to distinguish each business. She stated

the Arts Council could provide help with creating the signs. Ms. Reed noted these changes will need to be written in an ordinance. The committee agreed that new rules can be put in place over the winter so that other businesses can make changes in the spring. Ms. Wiles stated the fencing should be funded from the Downtown Development Fund. She asked how much the cost would be. Ms. Johnson stated she is not sure yet, but the fencing comes in pre-made panels that can be customized. She stated she will obtain a quote.

**Other Business:**

- 1) Set date for next meeting (Evelyn Lees)

The next meeting will be July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

- 2) Status of Funds (Steve Cooke)

This item was not discussed.

- 3) 10<sup>th</sup> Street Rehabilitation Project (Andrew Rodewald)

Mr. Rodewald stated resurfacing of 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Greenfield Avenue almost to Field Drive is scheduled to begin June 24<sup>th</sup> and is expected to take two weeks, weather permitting. He stated the street will remain open at all times, with flaggers to direct traffic where it is restricted.

- 4) Logan Street Pedestrian Bridge Project (Andrew Rodewald)

Mr. Rodewald stated a scheduled closure of the bridge has been postponed due to high water in White River. He stated the completion date for the project has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, which could affect some events. Ms. Steele stated the extension will affect the Duck Race.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



DARREN PETERSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK