

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 21, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, October 21, 2019. Brian Ayer, Wil Hampton, Darren Peterson, and Greg O'Connor were present. Megan Wiles was absent.

Also present were Mayor John Ditslear, City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Parks Director Brandon Bennett, Planning Director Sarah Reed, Assistant Planning Director Caleb Gutshall, Economic Development Specialist Aaron Head, Project Manager Andrew Rodewald, Esther Lakes, owner of Smith's Jewelers; Craig Crosser, owner of Nova 29; Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street; Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts; Bob DuBois, President of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce; and Dan Stevens of the Hamilton County Commissioner's Office.

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

Old Business:

1) Status of Funds

Mr. Peterson stated of the \$1.5 million dedicated to Downtown improvements since 2017, approximately \$75,000.00 is left to carry forward to 2020 projects.

2) Status Report on the Levinson Project

a. Levinson update and communications to the public – Noblesville NOW

Mr. Peterson stated construction has resumed using drilling rather than pile driving. Several members of the committee receive weekly text updates and find them informative.

b. Track removal update

Mr. Rodewald stated removal and asphalt work was completed on October 19th. He stated striping will be added as soon as possible. Ms. McGill thanked Mr. Rodewald for leaving several sections of rail at Nickel Plate Arts. She stated the rails will be used for an artistic purpose in homage of the City's history with trains.

c. Other construction projects in Downtown/Logan Street Bridge

Mr. Rodewald stated the temperature-sensitive construction is complete, and the bridge is now expected to be finished and open before Christmas.

d. Road/sidewalk/paving closures

Mr. Peterson asked if any of the streets surrounding Seminary Park will be repaved once construction is complete. Mr. Rodewald replied the streets will be evaluated.

3) Parking PILOT - approved

- a. ADA review of parking
- b. 20 minute spots

Mr. Peterson commended the Council for approving a new parking ordinance. He noted the location of handicapped-accessible parking and 20 minute parking spaces still need further review.

4) Alley Activation

a. Construction progress

Ms. McGill stated the Requests for Qualifications for alley archways went out, and she received two responses. She stated Kevin Huff, who is a Noblesville native with a great resume, was chosen. She stated they plan to build the Seminary Park arch first. Three possible designs were distributed to the committee. Mr. Bennett stated the arch will be designed using design elements from other Downtown features and will be either free standing or anchored in masonry columns. He noted the arch will also accommodate banners. He stated the alley archways will be consistent with but not identical to the Seminary Park archway. Mr. Peterson asked if the archway will be complete when the park is reopened. Ms. McGill replied it is a possibility, but is not certain. Ms. McGill stated the alley archways will each have identifying details that tie to the history of its location.

Mr. Head stated Indiana Code requires solicitation of three quotes for the concrete work in the alleys. He stated the Board of Public Works and Safety granted permission to solicit quotes at their meeting last week, so he will contact companies this week. He stated given the time of year and contractor's schedules, the work will most likely be completed in the spring.

b. Globe asphalt and crosswalks

Mr. Peterson stated he and Mr. Bennett will meet with a vendor on Thursday to discuss artistic crosswalks from the same material used for the 100th trail mile marker on the Levee Trail. Mr. Peterson stated using this material for crosswalks would be more versatile and durable than the methods used to date. He noted the material can only be used in asphalt that is less than one year old, so any new crosswalks would most likely be added when a street is repaved. Mr. Bennett noted there is even material that only reveals an image when it is wet, so rain would be a fun event.

Mr. Peterson stated he has received comments from citizens that the trails are not marked well, so perhaps medallions of this material embedded in the trails would be useful.

c. Traffic weight restrictions in Alleys

Mr. Rodewald stated this issue was only raised for the East alley, but it has proven to be unenforceable. There was a discussion about trucks hitting and damaging buildings while accessing the alley. Installing bollards at the corners of buildings was suggested, but because these are private buildings, the owners would need to take action. It was suggested that cameras installed nearby could help identify those who damage the buildings. Mr. Peterson stated he will speak to the IT department.

5) Seminary Park

a. Construction progress

Mr. Bennett stated the gazebo is complete, and sidewalks have been poured. He stated he expects the majority of the work to be complete by the end of this month. He noted the street light bulbs will be replaced with bulbs that are slightly less bright in order to better match the Edison lights that will be installed. The current bulbs will be used elsewhere.

Mr. Head stated Lights over Seminary is scheduled to begin on December 6th.

6) Furniture

a. Status of new flower pot order

The flower pots have been installed and most have been planted with small evergreen trees for the winter. Mr. Bennett stated 28 trees will be replaced to complete the planting, and he hopes merchants will decorate the trees near their businesses. Ms. McGill stated a few pots may need to be repositioned for better ADA compliance. The committee agreed the new planters are very attractive.

b. Patio fencing, new applications

Mr. Peterson asked if any other restaurants have applied for fencing around their outdoor seating. Ms. Johnson replied none have yet. She stated she is currently evaluating the fencing that was installed this year to see if it is durable enough, or if a sturdier fence is needed. She noted the Street Department Downtown employees have noticed pieces of the fence that broke off, so they may need to explore other options.

Mayor Ditslear left the meeting.

c. Light Pole installation schedule

Mr. Rodewald stated only 12 more light poles need to be purchased for Downtown. Ms. Johnson suggested the Duke street lights on Conner Street should be replaced by decorative poles from Downtown to State Road 37. The committee agreed, suggesting that a gateway over Conner Street could be added to designate entering the Downtown District.

New Business:

- 1) Review of Master Plan and projects for 2020

Mr. Peterson stated replacing the Duke street lights may be a project for 2020.

Other Business:

- 1) Set date for next meeting

The next meeting will be November 18 at 3:00 p.m.

- 2) Riverside Cemetery fees

Ms. Lees stated prices were last raised in 2004 and remain substantially below other local cemeteries. She stated a columbarium with cremation niches has been purchased and will arrive near the end of the year, so prices and policies need to be set in addition to increasing current prices. She reviewed the current and proposed prices, which would still be somewhat lower than other local cemeteries. Ms. Johnson noted that the other cemeteries must recoup their costs, while the City is providing a service.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



DARREN PETERSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK