

**COMMON COUNCIL  
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
APRIL 19, 2021**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, April 19, 2021 in room A213 at City Hall. Brian Ayer, Darren Peterson, Aaron Smith, and Megan Wiles were present. Ms. Wiles called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Community and Economic Development Director Sarah Reed, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, City Engineer Alison Krupski, Communications Director Emily Gaylord, Community Engagement Manager Kayla Arnold, and Engineering Project Manager Andrew Rodewald.

Pursuant to Hamilton County Health Department guidance, a call-in telephone number was provided for interested citizens to listen to the meeting.

**Old Business:**

Status of Funds

Ms. Arnold stated \$650.00 was paid for a sponsorship of the inaugural Indiana Peony Festival at Seminary Park. She stated funds were expended to pay for outdoor dining fencing for The Nesst, and an allocation was made for replacing streetlights.

There was a discussion concerning the streetlights on Logan Street from Lakeview Drive to River Road, and whether they should be green or black like the Downtown District lights. The current Downtown District boundary is Lakeview Drive, but the Nexus project on River Road is intended to be the west anchor of Downtown. There was a brief discussion concerning extending the Downtown District to include west Logan Street, but the committee decided against it at this time. It was decided that since a trail will be added to Logan Street from Federal Hill Commons to River Road and since INDOT will construct a roundabout at State Road 38 and Logan Street, any changes to the streetlights should be included with those projects. Ms. Wiles stated she did not want to install new light poles just to have them removed again. Mr. Rodewald observed that adding black streetlight poles to west Logan Street is similar to the black streetlight poles that were added to east Conner Street; they are outside the Downtown District, but changing the pole color in those locations makes sense. Ms. Arnold asked if banners and flowers should be added to the west Logan Street poles when they are changed to black to keep continuity. Mr. Rodewald replied he would consult the trail designer, who also is designing for the Downtown Improvements project.

Mayor Jensen joined the meeting at 3:50 p.m. He left the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

There was a brief discussion about the streetlight poles on west Conner Street that are owned by Duke Energy. Ms. Johnson offered to ask permission to paint the poles black.

Mr. Peterson complimented the uniform fencing for outdoor dining. He stated it looks great.

## **New Business:**

### Downtown Streetscape Updates

Mr. Light stated preliminary options are due from DLZ on May 15. He stated the committee is scheduled to meet on May 17, but that doesn't give the Administration much time to review the recommendations. After discussion, the committee agreed to reschedule their meeting to May 24 and invite community partners to review the new design options. Mr. Light stated a work session for the Council will be scheduled the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the design options and Downtown parking.

Mr. Rodewald stated in 2023 INDOT will reconstruct Conner Street from 16<sup>th</sup> Street to the bridge over White River. He stated he is working with INDOT to phase the closure in order to minimize disruption.

Mr. Rodewald stated in the next two days he will visit Downtown buildings to take inventory of their basements for the Downtown Improvements project. He stated all building owners were contacted, but only a few granted permission.

### Downtown Activation Projects

- North Alley

Ms. Arnold stated the north alley is open for the season and is in use.

- South Alley

Ms. Arnold stated the south alley will reopen when the Levinson opens. She stated at that time the furniture and shade sails will be reinstalled.

- East Alley

Ms. Arnold stated the poles for shade sails and Edison lights will be extended back to the cross alley. She stated she is working with two artists for a mural.

- 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bistro Alley

Ms. Arnold stated Edison lights will be installed once the alley is repaved. She stated the lights will be installed as they are in the east alley to accommodate trucks. She stated the lights will extend from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the cross alley at the back of the building.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Topics**

Ms. Arnold stated the main focus is the Downtown Improvements project at this time. Ms. Wiles asked if the Main Street advocacy group has held meetings yet. Ms. Arnold replied one meeting

has taken place, and others are planned. Ms. Reed stated there will be a focus on marketing Downtown businesses during construction. Ms. Wiles asked if any progress had been made on making more room in the north/south alley behind the east alley. Ms. Reed replied the idea was discussed with the affected businesses, but they did not like the idea. Mr. Peterson stated it might be good to revisit a common trash dumpster, since they are often inadvertently dragged by trucks going through the alley. Ms. Arnold and Ms. Johnson questioned the size that would be needed and where to put it. Ms. Wiles stated there is a need for a loading zone in the alley. Mr. Rodewald stated the alley is being surveyed. Mr. Ayer stated public safety needs access as well.

Mr. Ayer left the meeting.

There was a discussion concerning parking information on the streetlight banners. The committee agreed the banners have not been effective and that signs should be installed. They suggested temporary sign posts to save the cost and disruption of installing permanent posts. There was a discussion concerning lack of parking compliance. Ms. Arnold stated while business owners say they and their employees don't park on the Square, they have figured out that parking is not being enforced, so they park there anyway. Ms. Wiles stated there is no need to ticket them, but they should be sent a letter to embarrass them into compliance. Ms. Johnson offered to have the two Downtown Street Department employees watch for the worst offenders.

Mr. Smith expressed dismay at the state of the Downtown planters. Ms. Reed replied flowers will be planted in them soon, which will take care of the problem.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

  
MEGAN WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR

  
EVELYN LEES, CLERK  
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE