

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 16, 2021**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, August 16, 2021 in room A213 at City Hall. Brian Ayer, Darren Peterson, Aaron Smith, and Megan Wiles were present. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Community Engagement Manager Kayla Arnold, Engineering Project Manager Andrew Rodewald, and Engineering intern Hannah Thompson. Lorna Oskouie, Executive Director of Main Street, arrived at 3:26 p.m.

Old Business:

Status of Funds

Ms. Arnold presented the status of funds in a new format as a Financial Snapshot. She stated Mr. Light and Finance/Budget Analyst Sam Beres helped her with the information. She reviewed the handout. The committee found the snapshot to be very helpful. Ms. Wiles asked if a list of the contracts that have encumbered money could be included. She stated for planning purposes, it helps to know what projects have money encumbered and which ones do not. Ms. Arnold agreed to provide a breakdown of encumbered funds with a synopsis for each contract going forward.

Streetlight Update

Mr. Rodewald stated there is really no new update. He stated all Duke Energy light poles have been replaced or painted black except those on the Riverwalk and Conner Street Bridge. He stated the replacement poles are on order and expected to arrive this fall. He explained Duke Energy will not remove the existing poles until the replacements have been delivered. He stated Hamilton County Facilities Manager Steve Wood has agreed to reimburse the City \$15,000.00 for their share of the light pole replacements. Mr. Rodewald stated the only other Downtown poles to be replaced are signal poles, and they are scheduled as part of the upcoming Downtown Improvements project and the INDOT project.

New Business:

Peony Festival

Ms. Wiles stated she has been working with Kelly McVey, organizer of the Peony Festival. She stated they would like to plant more peonies at the historic courthouse and at the Judicial Center.

Support for County Plantings

Ms. Wiles stated the peonies for the courthouses would cost approximately \$1,500.00. She asked if the committee would agree to fund the project. Mr. Peterson moved to approve the

expenditure, second Mr. Smith, four aye, motion carried. The committee agreed the expenditure would come from the \$75,000.00 appropriated in the Downtown Development Fund for small, aesthetic purchases.

Mr. Peterson asked the committee to consider sponsorship of new Downtown festivals and events, such as the recent Logan Street Front Porch Festival, which was funded almost entirely by the organizer. After discussion, the committee agreed that they could provide seed money to help launch new events and festivals.

Mr. Light left the meeting.

Parking Garage

Signage

Ms. Arnold stated design work on signs for the garage is ongoing. She stated the Mayor has reviewed the designs and requested only a few edits. She stated the committee will receive the designs next. She stated once they are approved, they will be shared with the County. She stated the signs are to be ready by September 14.

Mr. Peterson asked if lighting will be installed in the alley on the north side of the garage. Mr. Rodewald replied wall pack lighting is installed on the north side of the Levinson.

Ms. Thompson left the meeting.

Alley Activation

Mr. Ayer asked if lighting could be installed in the brick alley that will be rehabilitated. He stated the alley is very dark, and from the trash he has seen in the alley, there is much activity there after dark. Mr. Rodewald stated if lighting will be installed and conduit is needed, he must know immediately. He stated the addition could add significant cost to the project. Mr. Peterson stated if there is an issue with the alley, it should be addressed. There was a discussion concerning installation of Edison Lights. Ms. Wiles wondered if Edison lights would be sufficient, if the alley is more of a public safety hazard. Mr. Rodewald stated work is scheduled to begin in a few weeks, so if changes needs to be made, he needs the information as quickly as possible. Ms. Arnold offered to speak with Public Safety Director Chad Knecht.

South Alley

Mr. Rodewald stated the Levinson is finishing up punch list items before they repave the alley on the north side of the building. Ms. Arnold stated a ribbon cutting is planned for September 14, and September 15, 2021 is the move-in date for tenants.

Ms. Arnold displayed the mural concepts she received from the artist and showed the committee the locations that were available. She noted if the murals are painted directly on the building,

they will be ruined in a few years when tuck pointing will need to be completed. She stated if the murals are painted on panels, the panels can be removed and then reinstalled once tuck pointing is complete. She stated the panels can be purchased. The committee agreed that panels were most appropriate. They agreed to fund the cost of the panels.

Ms. Arnold stated shade sails, Edison lights, planters, and furniture will be reinstalled when the South alley is once again closed to vehicular traffic. Ms. Johnson stated the Street Department plans to stain the brick in the alley before it is closed and the amenities are installed. Ms. Arnold stated footers and an arch similar to the North alley will also be installed.

East Alley

Mural Update

Ms. Arnold displayed renderings of the proposed mural for the east alley, which is a floral painting featuring peonies. She stated the panels for the mural will attach to the light poles in the alley. She stated the artist may finish painting the mural as part of the September First Friday event.

Bridge of Flowers Update

Ms. Wiles stated she shared DLZ's latest design with Dick Gordon, who loved it. She stated the donor recognition piece will be freestanding and will be installed near the east end of the bridge. She stated there will be planters and pergolas with greenery growing on them. Mr. Rodewald stated the full cost is estimated at almost \$500,000.00, which does not include cost sharing between the City, the County, and the Friends of the Bridge of Flowers. Ms. Wiles stated a Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted. Mr. Rodewald displayed DLZ's renderings. He noted the existing planters will remain. Mr. Peterson asked if the City will be liable for costs if the Friends of the Bridge of Flowers default on their commitments in the future. Mr. Rodewald noted none of the installations on the bridge are permanent, so they could be removed at a later date if needed. Mr. Smith stated the Bridge of Flowers is a great continuation of the Downtown Streetscape.

Next Meeting Agenda Topics

Mr. Rodewald stated DLZ is also designing the Logan Street Trail from 8th Street to River Road. He stated he will bring a cost estimate to the next meeting.

Mr. Ayer stated when he was traveling, he saw a town that created Downtown parklets by building decks in parking spaces to provide outdoor seating. He stated the decks were removed in the winter. He stated it is an interesting idea. Mr. Rodewald looked up photos of the parklets on the internet and displayed them for the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.


MEGAN WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR


EVELYN LEES, CLERK
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE