

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2021**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Friday, September 10, 2021 in room A214 at City Hall. Brian Ayer, Darren Peterson, Aaron Smith, and Megan Wiles were present. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

Old Business:

Status of Funds

Ms. Arnold reviewed expenditures from the Downtown Development Fund and the remaining balance. Ms. Johnson stated sidewalk flower pots meant for the Levinson were used for the Bridge of Flowers, so replacements will have to be ordered for \$7,423.00. Ms. Arnold stated the expense will come from the \$75,000.00 discretionary appropriation. Ms. Arnold stated a bronze plaque commemorating the brick alley has been ordered. She stated the plaque will be 18 by 24 inches and will cost approximately \$3,000.00. She stated this expense also will be spent from the \$75,000.00 discretionary appropriation. She stated installing arches at both ends of the south alley has been proposed, since it will serve as a corridor from the Levinson to the Square. The committee approved the additional arch.

Ms. Reed stated the Levinson parking garage is due to open on September 14, although she is not entirely satisfied that it will be ready by that date. She stated she will meet with the Mayor later today about possibly postponing the opening by two weeks. She stated the overhead directional signs in the garage are installed. Ms. Arnold displayed renderings of the garage signage. Ms. Reed explained each level will have a distinct color and theme. She stated the same theme will be used in the Village at Federal Hill parking garage, and the files will be shared with the County to use with their parking garage if they choose to do so. Mr. Peterson asked who is paying for the signage. Ms. Reed stated the City is paying for the signage in the Levinson, but not the other two garages. She stated the overhead signs are Phase I; other art near elevators and in corners will be Phase II. She stated column wraps will also be available. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Ayer were in favor of completing all of the signage at once. Mr. Ayer asked how the pedestrian entrance on the north side will be finished. Ms. Reed replied it will be a glass storefront door. She displayed a freestanding "P" sign that will be installed at the corner of Maple Avenue. Mr. Smith asked if other wayfinding signs will be installed Downtown. Mr. Rodewald replied those signs are part of the Downtown Improvements project design. There was a discussion about ways to place signs before the project takes place. Ms. Reed stated staff will bring a plan to the next meeting.

Ms. Wiles noted only \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 remains in the \$75,000.00 discretionary appropriation, and approximately \$225,000.00 remains unspent for the year. Ms. Arnold stated

approximately \$50,000.00 will be used for the brick alley rehabilitation project, so only \$175,000.00 still remains. Mr. Light pointed out that approximately \$320,000.00 from previous years is still unappropriated in the fund. Ms. Wiles suggested that money could be used to pay for the new signal poles on Conner Street when INDOT replaces them in 2023. Mr. Rodewald noted prices have been increasing and will probably be more than the estimate that was provided earlier. Ms. Wiles stated another probable expense is the Bridge of Flowers. Mr. Light stated a management firm will also be hired to provide maintenance and enforcement at the Levinson parking garage. Ms. Reed stated Denison Parking Management will be hired. She stated she also is obtaining a structural analysis of the garage to have a baseline before it opens. Mr. Peterson asked how much the maintenance will cost. Ms. Reed replied an estimate is still forthcoming. Mr. Peterson stated the Downtown Fund could pay for three years, but he was not comfortable with funding the garage long term. Ms. Wiles asked for a list of probable expenses in future reports. Ms. Reed stated so far there are the Conner Street signal poles, the design and installation of the Bridge of Flowers, garage maintenance, and the four-way stop flashing signal pole replacements. Mr. Rodewald noted the contract with DLZ will be increased for the Bridge of Flowers design.

Streetlight Update

Mr. Rodewald stated the new light poles are due to be delivered by September 28, and the contractor plans to install them in mid-October. He noted if Duke Energy is not able to remove the existing poles by then, the work schedule may change. He stated six or seven light poles on the Riverwalk adjacent to the planned East Bank development will need to be replaced. He explained staff had thought the poles would be replaced as a part of the East Bank project, but they will not be. Ms. Wiles asked if the cost will be approximately \$30,000.00. Mr. Rodewald replied it may be more, because costs are rising. There was a discussion concerning whether to replace the poles now or wait until the East Bank project was finished. Mr. Rodewald and Ms. Krupski were in favor of waiting, since the poles could be damaged during construction. The committee decided the poles should be ordered now, no matter when they are installed. Ms. Krupski stated Mr. Rodewald is finalizing a map of Downtown streetlights. She stated it will be sent to the committee when it is complete. Ms. Wiles suggested ordering the light poles once the map is complete.

New Business:

Bridge of Flowers Update

Ms. Krupski stated all parties support the concept drawing. She stated preliminary plans will be complete by October 8. She stated an interlocal agreement with Hamilton County is needed, as well as an agreement with the Gordon family. Mr. Light stated the Administration needs guidance from the committee regarding the division of responsibilities and how much money the City is willing to spend on the project. Mr. Peterson stated the agreements should divide responsibilities rather than costs. Ms. Krupski stated the Friends of the Bridge of Flowers (the Gordon Family) expect to pay for potting soil and the flowers. She added they have committed to changing the plants for the seasons. Ms. Wiles stated there is not yet a sense of the City's share

of the cost. There was a discussion concerning the initial cost and what the ongoing cost might be. Mr. Ayer suggested deciding what the City can afford to fund, then leaving it to the other two parties to fund the rest. Ms. Krupski stated the County Commissioners expressed a desire to install an irrigation system. The committee agreed it would be convenient, but costly. Mr. Light stated the Mayor is prepared to have conversations with the other parties. He stated staff will present a plan to the committee at the October 18 meeting.

Mr. Smith left the meeting.

Logan Street Trail Update

Mr. Rodewald stated the trail will be much simpler than what is planned for the Downtown Improvements project. He stated the trail is being designed in phases: from 8th Street to White River, and west of Federal Hill Commons to Lakeview Drive. He stated he stopped at Lakeview Drive because INDOT will build a roundabout there soon. He added the Village at Federal Hill will construct the trail there as a part of its project. Ms. Wiles reminded the committee they had decided to pursue construction of the trail while the Downtown Improvements project is paused. Ms. Krupski stated she will email concept drawings to the committee for comments.

Mr. Ayer asked if trash receptacles were available for the Levinson. Ms. Johnson replied there are none that she knows of. She stated she has some spare green ones that could be painted black. Mr. Ayer encouraged her to do that until others can be found.

Ms. Reed added the County has committed \$1million of its READI grant for drainage and flood plain work. Mr. Peterson asked if part of that money could be applied to the Logan Street Trail. Ms. Reed replied it may be eligible.

Peony Plantings from the Indiana Peony Festival

Ms. Wiles stated Kelly McVey is working to find locations to plant peonies. Ms. Reed added Ms. McVey has been vetting 15 locations. She stated Ms. McVey has involved Keep Noblesville Beautiful. She stated possible sites are at Riverside Cemetery and the Riverwalk.

Parking Garage

Signage

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

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Alley Activation

South Alley

Mural Update

There was a discussion concerning whether murals painted on panels should be attached to the buildings, mounted on freestanding poles next to the buildings, or painted directly on the buildings. Ms. Arnold stated the contract commits the artist to maintain the painting for three years. The committee agreed the mural should be painted on the building if Facilities Manager David Dale approves.

Arch Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

East Alley

Mural Update

Ms. Arnold stated the poles to mount the mural are being installed in a few weeks. Ms. Reed stated they are coordinating the installing with Nickel Plate Arts Executive Director Ailithir McGill. Ms. Arnold stated the mural will be installed before the committee's next meeting.

Arch Update

Ms. Arnold stated the design has been approved, but concrete footers are needed for installation.

Mr. Peterson asked who will work with the committee once Ms. Arnold leaves for her new position with the City of Westfield. Ms. Reed stated she, Mr. Light, and Mr. Gutshall will work with the committee until a replacement for Ms. Arnold is hired.

Next Meeting Agenda Topics

The committee agreed to discuss wayfinding signs and the READI grant at the next meeting. Ms. Wiles stated she will be out of town, so she will participate via Microsoft Teams. She thanked Ms. Arnold for her work with the City. Mr. Ayer wished her success in her new position.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.


MEGAN WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR


EVELYN LEES, CLERK
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE