

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
January 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman Wilson on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wilson, Board members Phillips, Wirt, Limas, and Silvas.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Myrkle and Deputy Clerk Walters.

ABSENT: Board members Lyon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2017: Board member Wirt moved, supported by Phillips to approve the minutes of December 19, 2017 as presented. Carried. 6 Yes. 0 No.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. PARKING MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION:

Community Development Director Myrkle introduced this discussion by asking what elements of downtown parking need to be addressed, what are some ideas to support these needs, what specific areas are doing well or needing attention.

Chairperson Wilson shared input received from community member Vanderstelt suggesting the lot at Lovett and Bostwick be designated parking for business owners. Board members agreed that this idea is worth exploring.

Board member Lyon arrived at 8:05 A.M.

Chairperson Wilson began discussion in reviewing the draft of the best practices packet with asking for suggestions in wording regarding snow removal. Board members will take some time to consider this.

Board member Potter arrived at 8:08 A.M.

Board member Potter asked for a contact list for the best practices packet, a list was created and given to board member Potter.

Board member Lyon returned to the discussion of parking downtown stating that there is an issue with business owners taking up street front parking and began discussion on two hour parking enforcement. Discussion led to increased interest in finding an individual willing to fulfill the enforcement position as previously held by John Geddie. Board members also agreed that the concern should be approached delicately and presented as an educational opportunity.

Board member Lyon began discussion on the effect of snow removal on parking. He said this year the process seems to be more efficient and not taking up parking spaces. Director Myrkle mentioned that the next street-scape project needs to consider constructing thicker sidewalks to accommodate the wear and tear of salt and snow clearing. Chairperson Wilson says business owners could help along the curb and in their storefront. Director Myrkle also mentioned business owners clearing snowmelt from awnings.

B. WAYFINDING DISCUSSION:

Director Myrkle introduced the topic stating there are not many signs promoting local businesses and a reminder that signs on Cochran must be approved by MDOT and could be put into the street-scape plan.

Board member Lyon began discussion on using the recent designation of “Historic Downtown” to promote this and place signs on Lansing Road. Board member Potter suggested signs on or near I69, particularly at the southernmost exit for Charlotte.

Public comment from Julie Kimmer, 201 W Seminary, that Dornbos Sign has reasonable prices and will be creating historic residential area signs with the approved national seal. She stated that there are 328 properties on the National Registry which will need a place to be hosted online. Director Myrkle said the City’s website may be able to accommodate this.

Chairperson Wilson and Director Myrkle discussed potentially putting the street number ranges on street signs. Board member Potter mentioned this could be an opportunity to create a walking tour of Charlotte.

C. OTHER UPDATES & REPORTS:

Director Myrkle stated that the old IGA site development has been approved by the Planning Commission. This development will include an “L” shaped building, covered car port, and picnic area for the 40 units. This project will begin in March 2018 and will be completed and open in March 2019.

Meeting adjourned by Board member Wirt at 8:50 a.m.

Jessica Walters, Deputy City Clerk