

**IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2017**

**Voting Members Present:** Mark Ginsberg, Ritu Jain, Michelle Galvin, Naftaly Stramer, Bill Nusser, Wesley Ward, Susan Craig, Katie Roche, Nick Lindsley, Linda Schreiber, David Kieft

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Kim Casko, Lisa Barnes, Wendy Ford, Kate Moreland

**Staff Present:** Nancy Bird, Betsy Potter, Mary Besler

**Voting Members Absent With Notice:** Kent Jehle, Jason Deppe, Joni Schrup, Angela Winnike, Crissy Canganelli, George Etre

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 in Meeting Room B/C of the Iowa City Public Library. A quorum of 11 of 17 voting members was present.

**2) Approval of Minutes**

Ritu Jain moved to approve the minutes from the 3/23/17 meeting. The motion as seconded by Naftaly Stramer. *The motion passed 11-0.*

**3) Approval of Finance Report**

There were no major comments on the Finance Report. David Kieft moved to approve the Finance Report. The motion was seconded by Wesley Ward. *The motion passed 11-0.*

**4) Discussion with Brad Comer, Iowa City Assessor, on Tax Value Changes**

Brad talked about his goal as assessor to find the market value of properties. His office does not set or collect taxes. His assessments are monitored by the Iowa Department of Revenue. If they are found to be

off by more than 5% there will be equalization orders from the state that will result in an overall increase to all properties. When assessing properties his office uses the current use of a property, not the potential use. There is an appeal process that involves both an internal review and a board of review.

#### **5) Executive Committee**

Nancy Bird and Kim Casco discussed a MOA between the ICDD and the Chamber of Commerce that would help to support the legislative committee of the ICDD. The main advantage is a gained efficiency while the largest concern would be about a non agreement on certain issues. The prevailing agreement was this was more about organization and sharing content and would be a valuable relationship provided the ICDD still be an active participant on local items.

Nancy Bird also discussed two possible board nominations. Mazahir Salih's community engagement seat is up in June of 2017. This is a 1 year term and it is optional that we fill it. Angela Winnike will resign her seat as stakeholder due to her new position as Iowa City Night Mayor. In order to maintain gender balance the new board member should be female. Potential nominations should be sent to Nancy.

#### **6) Staff and Committee Highlights**

Cosign is well underway with 250 designs submitted for 25 businesses. The project is on time and on budget.

Betsy Potter reported that Block Party tickets are now on sale. She is in the process of contacting all 90 plus businesses in the footprint and getting sponsorships. She also distributed placemaking calendars.

#### **7) Ex Officio Reports**

David Kieft from UI reported that bids for the Science Brain Center open in early June. The first public renderings of the UI Art Museum will also be available to the public in June.

Lisa Barnes from SoTA reported on their collaboration with Toyota of Iowa City that will result in commissioned works of art. Details are on

the SOTA website.

Kim Casco from the Chamber of Commerce is just back from Washington DC where she talked about infrastructure needs.

Kate Moreland from Merge reported that they are on the verge of opening and will be the home base for EntreFest next week. They will have a grand opening with the UI in June.

Susan Craig from ICPL reported on the Steam Festival to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Iowa City will be the host for all Cities of Literature in April of 2018.

Wendy Ford from the City reported that the Economic Development Committee of the City Council is at the end of its TIF review and is discussing building height. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet but she will keep the board informed.

## **8) Adjourn**

Ritu Jain moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bill Nusser.  
*Motion passed 11-0.*