

**Iowa City Downtown District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Naftaly Stramer, Mark Ginsberg, Michelle Galvin, Kent Jehle, Wesley Ward, Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek, Joni Schrup, Susan Craig, Ritu Jain, , Bill Nusser, Nick Lindsley, Anne Armitage

Non-voting Members Present: Wendy Ford, Kate Moreland, Lisa Barnes, Kim Casco

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Betsy Potter, Thomas Agran

Voting Members Absent with Notice: George Etre, Jason Deppe, David Kieft,

Call to Order/Announcements/Board Changes

President Stramer called the meeting to order at 8:33 in Meeting Room D of the Iowa City Public Library. A quorum was present. He thanked all, especially the staff, for a great Taste of Iowa City event the evening before. It was Hayek's first meeting so introductions were made around the table.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Schrup/Ginsberg) to accept the July 27 minutes. Motion passed 12-0.

Financials

It was moved by Jehle, seconded by Jain to accept the financials. Motion passed 12-0. Jehle noted that there was still funding expected to come for the CoSign project which was showing a deficit. He said that the overall interest and good will and engagement with the artists were positive outcomes. The end of the year ended with a significant positive balance of \$43,826. Bird asked for additional ideas on how to use the money. She said \$10,000 had already been committed to future art projects. Craig suggested some ped mall enhancement that isn't in the City's budget, Jain ask about the possibility of a light project similar to what was done on the North Side.

Ex-Officio Reports

Ford announced that the long- time head of Neighborhood & Development Services, Doug Boothroy was retiring. September 11 will be his last day. Barnes said they were wrapping up a very success summer 2017 with a final weekend of programming. Moreland shared that their annual meeting is next Thursday at Big Grove. All are welcome.

Downtown Public Art Initiative

Agran, new part-time District staff member, said he is excited to be part of an increase in opportunities for local artists. He sees his job as increasing engagement and working with the arts community to help solve issues. In the coming year there will be an RFP issued for a variety of murals. There is a Google map not the website that shows all the public art locations. Stramer asked about the future of Benchmarks and the possibility that it might be expanded to the North Side. Agran said that the current plan is to downsize the number of wooden slat benches, but there are other types of projects that could be looked at. In the future he will be working the ICCSD's Any Given Child initiative, a federal grant intended to provide equal access to the arts for children. Any relationship with the City's public art projects is not yet determined. He invited all to the meeting next Wednesday at 6:30pm at MERGE focused on public art.

Staff Reports

Bird reported on the work of the Legislative Committee. They are putting together an advocacy document to share with City Council candidates, and are looking at a questionnaire for candidates. She will be sending an email with updates. The new MOA with the Chamber is in the packet.

Potter said that the Farm to Street event last week was a great event. Funds raised benefited the Iowa Valley Global Food Project and the IC Parks & Rec Foundation (Farmers Market). Taste of Iowa City was also a success. The newest staff member is Christopher Hunter who is working on the Shopping Genius campaign. Programming continues at BHMP.

Bird reported for Winnike that she continues to make contacts downtown. Dave Schwindt the police officer assigned to community policing in the downtown is rotating off of those duties after a five year stint. Interviews for his replacement are planned next week.

A question was asked about whether or not we know the future of The Union building after its sale. Bird said as far as she's heard there will not be any dramatic changes in the short term. Kyle Smith of The Quarters purchased the building and has plans to put office on the third floor. The City is in the midst of a Historic Survey and has hired a consultant who will be interviewing and holding meetings. Discussion about the need to amend some code standards for historical properties in requirements such as downsizing elevators.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Jain, seconded by Galvin. All in favor.

Recorded by Susan Craig