

**Iowa City Downtown District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2018**

Voting Members Present: Naftaly Stramer, Joni Schrup, Susan Craig, George Etre, Ritu Jain, Nick Lindsley, Katie Roche, Wesley Ward, Bill Nusser, Jason Deppe

Non-voting Members Present: Josh Schamberger, Aimee Jennings, Wendy Ford, Kate Moreland, Kim Casco

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Christopher Hunter

Voting Members Absent with Notice: Kent Jehle, Anne Armitage, Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek, Mark Ginsberg, David Kieft, Michelle Galvin, Crissy Canganelli

Call to Order/Announcements

President Stramer called the meeting to order at 9:03 in Meeting Room D of the Iowa City Public Library. A quorum was present. He introduced new SOTA representative, Aimee Jennings. The board introduced themselves to Aimee.

Open Forum

Roche shared that the Englert and Film Scene are entering the quiet phase of a joint capital campaign and she would like to invite Andre Perry to a future meeting to share information about the effort. There was general agreement that would be fine.

Craig reminded people that the children's literature festival, One Book Two Book, was this weekend. On Saturday, there is also an Archives Crawl, a joint effort of several UI entities and the public library.

Ex-Officio Reports

Moreland reported that ICAD and the Chamber are discussing possible ways they can work together. They are looking at various models/best practices for Chambers and economic development organizations. An initial report will be out the end of May.

Schamberger shared promotion material for the international wrestlers coming to town in early April. The group includes 8 of the current 9 world champions. At the same time the City of Literature will be hosting all the designated cities. They report most of them are coming. So far 3,000 have registered for the April 29th marathon. RAGRAI planning is ramping up. Plans are to try to get riders downtown. There will not be food vendors at the camping sites.

Ford said the plans for the Ped Mall project were approved by Council on Tuesday and bids will be due March 27. Phase one construction starts April 30. There has been a request to Council to name the new stage.

Study regarding the form based code implementation has been scaled back due to cost.

Casko reported the Chamber is working to keep up with legislative proposals and prepare responses as needed.

Jennings said that SOTA is working on their strategic plan with a consultant, the Friday Night Concert lineup is set, as is the Saturday movie schedule. They are talking about the future of Soul Fest including possibly relocating it. It may not be held this year.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Shrup/Ward) to accept the January minutes. Motion passed 10-0.

Financials

Nusser presented the financials. They have been advised that they need to pay sales tax for events like Top Chef and Taste of Iowa City. Moved by Ward, seconded by Schrup to accept the financials. All in favor.

Staff Reports

Top Chef is next week, there are 24 entries in the three categories. Block Party planning continues; sponsors are being secured. Agran is working with Public Space One as they search for better space. The Legislative Committee has been busy, the draft letter to ABD was in the packet. A motion to approve the letter was made by Jain and seconded by Deppe – all voted in favor. TIF support has also been discussed and they hope to identify a project that will receive support which may address some of the current uncertainty. They are trying to develop a theme that can be used during the wrestling, City of Literature visits and Mission Creek Festival which all overlap.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Recorded by Susan Craig