

IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2013**

Voting Members Present: Kevin Digmann, George Etre, Ritu Jain, Kent Jehle, David Kieft, Karen Kubby, Patty McCarthy, Bill Nusser, Steve Pajunen, Joni Schrup, Naftaly Stramer.

Non-Voting Members Present: Steve Boyd, Geoff Fruin, Mark Nolte, Josh Schamberger.

Staff Present: Betsy Potter.

Voting Members Absent with Notice: Catherine Champion, Mark Ginsberg, Mark Weaver.

Non-Voting Members Absent with Notice: Josh Schamberger.

Staff Absent with Notice: Nancy Bird.

Non-Voting Members Absent without Notice: Alec Bramel, Mark Nolte.

Members Present: Marc Moen (in at 3:07 p.m.)

Others Present: ICPD Officer David Schwindt.

1. Call to Order

President Bill Nusser called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, Iowa.

A quorum of 11 of 14 voting members was present.

2. Member Open Forum

David Kieft stated that there is an August 1st deadline for the private sector to respond to The University of Iowa Requests for Information to partner on the new UI Museum of Art. The project is likely to be located in the downtown area.

3. Approval of June 26, 2013 Minutes

Joni Schrup moved to approve the June 26, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Kevin Digmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 11-0.

4. Approval of June 2013 Financials

Kent Jehle reported that the month was relatively quiet and all is on track. Year-end reports should be available next month.

Kent Jehle moved to approve the June 2013 Financial Reports as presented. Steve Pajunen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 11-0.

5. Safety Initiatives

Karen Kubby requested discussion to guide the Legislative Committee on developing strategies to address safety issues including harassment, littering, people sleeping on benches and spending extended time particularly on the ped mall with gear such as shopping carts and appliances, which prevents others from using the space.

Officer David Schwindt of the Iowa City Police Department has talked with many of the people whose behavior has prompted complaints, and the impact of the behavior on downtown's image. He reviewed numbers of complaints and the process for filing a complaint before distributing a form on which complainants can record what happened immediately after it occurs even if they decide not to immediately report the incident to police.

Discussion focused on balancing civil rights with use of public space, possibility of new ordinances, enforcement issues, and how to engage all in the search for a solution. Consensus was that the Legislative Committee will develop some proposals for consideration by all, and those interested in that work by the Legislative Committee should contact Karen Kubby.

6. Executive Committee Report

Renew or Modify Committee Assignments

Bill Nusser encouraged all to determine whether or not they will continue to serve on current

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committees. Contact the Committee Chairpersons.

7. Executive Director's Report

Bill Nusser reviewed the written report included in the meeting packet. Those who want to participate in the new gift card program should contact Betsy Potter. Consensus was that the gift card cannot be used to purchase alcohol but that language is not permitted on the card. Businesses will be informed of the position.

8. Committee Updates

21 Ordinance Subcommittee Report

Bill Nusser reported the subcommittee met and discussed gathering input from all sides. Nusser and Bird will meet with bar and restaurant owners about the issue. Nusser requested those present state whether or not they think ICDD should take a stand on the question. The majority said Yes. Nusser also polled members on how they would vote and the majority said the age should be 21.

Discussion was held on the reports of improved health and safety among students since the ordinance took effect, as well as concerns about the economic impact of repeated votes.

(Kevin Digmann left at 3:58 p.m.)

Special Events/Marketing

Those present agreed that Sidewalk Sales Days were highly successful, and shoppers talked about and enjoyed the free ramp parking.

Betsy Potter distributed handouts about the UICCU Benchmarks project. She stated the puzzles contained in the paintings are generating many questions and a lot of interest. Efforts are underway to create materials explaining the project.

Projects

Solicitations for the Iowa City Press-Citizen downtown magazine are underway. There is a mid-August deadline. The Wi-Fi project is progressing.

9. Ex Officio Updates

Steve Boyd, Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce: None.

Geoff Fruin, City of Iowa City: There have been few comments about the new parking rates and first hour free in the ramps. Reducing the wait for credit card verification at the meters is a priority.

(Kent Jehle left at 4:35 p.m.)

The police investigation determined that a false report was filed by the juvenile who reported being assaulted in a downtown alley. News media will be updated.

10. Adjourn

Ritu Jain moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Joni Schrup.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patty McCarthy, Secretary