

IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 22, 2013

Voting Members Present: Catherine Champion, Kevin Digmann, George Etre, Mark Ginsberg, Ritu Jain, Kent Jehle, David Kieft, Karen Kubby, Patty McCarthy, Bill Nusser Steve Pajunen Joni Schrup, Mark Weaver.

Non-Voting Members Present: Steve Boyd, Alec Bramel, Geoff Fruin.

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Betsy Potter.

Voting Members Absent with Notice: Naftaly Stramer.

Non-Voting Members Absent with Notice: Mark Nolte, Josh Schamberger

Members Present: Marc Moen

Invited Guests Present: Crissy Canganelli (Shelter House), Michael Langer (One Ancient Hope), David Schwindt (Iowa City Police Department).

1. **Call to Order**

President Karen Kubby called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, Iowa. The meeting notice mistakenly stated a 3:30 p.m. meeting start time. All members were present before 3:30 p.m.

A quorum of 10 of 14 voting members was present at 3 p.m. Three additional voting members and one non-voting member joined the meeting 3:28 p.m.-3:32 p.m.

2. **Member Open Forum**

None.

3. **Approval of April 24, 2013 Minutes**

Patty McCarthy noted a typographical error in the motion regarding the new parking enforcement hours. The second sentence should read "...hours to 6 p.m. from the current 5 p.m."

Ritu Jain moved to approve the April 24, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. David Kieft seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 10-0.

Kubby stated members would be asked to complete the annual Conflict of Interest form at the June meeting.

4. **Executive Committee Report**

Kubby reported the committee continues to develop the slate of officers for next year. It will be presented for a vote at the June board meeting.

As required by the Bylaws, members will receive notice of revised bylaws earlier than the board packet distribution. Proposed changes will remove committee chair assignments for officers to enable them to lead other committees.

5. **Approval of April 2013 Financials**

Kent Jehle summarized the financial reports. Income totaling \$134,158.45 was received including \$74,241.69 from property tax assessment. Expenses are on target.

Kent Jehle moved to approve the April 2013 Financial reports. Kevin Digmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 10-0.

6. **Issues of Safety and Homelessness Downtown**

As invited, Crissy Canganelli, Executive Director of Shelter House, presented information about homelessness in the area and its potential impact on the district. Shelter House moved to a new

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facility in 2010 which has 70 beds compared to the previous 29. Shelter House rules require sobriety and some homeless do not want to accept services due to addictions and mental illnesses. A “housing first” approach is being discussed to help provide shelter for all. Reverend Michael Langer stated his church distributes sleeping bags to those who want them.

Complaints received by ICDD members from the public include issues of strong language, open drug use, people sleeping on benches, and intimidating behavior.

Iowa City Police Officer David Schwindt distributed information on the number of warnings (42), citations (9), and 1 arrest issued since his patrol began in January. He stated the majority of those he encounters respond positively to being educated about the rules and laws. A small group does not. He suggested removal of the benches on the Pedestrian Plaza near the intersection of Washington/Dubuque Streets to discourage use by those who stay for many hours and do not cooperate with requests to comply with the law.

Sales of legal synthetic substances at four downtown businesses were cited as part of the problem. Fruin reported other communities’ efforts to legislate against the substances results in development of new formulae, and the continuation of the problem. Members agreed landlords need to be educated about the businesses and discouraged from renting to them. Concern about unintended consequences of legislation, such as boundaries being moved into other neighborhoods, was expressed.

Kubby requested members interested in developing possible solutions contact her for consideration by the Legislative Committee.

Canganelli and Langer left the meeting at 4 p.m.

Officer Schwindt described changes in camera locations and angles. He left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

7. Approval of FY 2014 Budget

Jehle reviewed the proposed budget which includes provisions to seek sponsorships for some special events and projects. Potential new initiatives include free public Wi-Fi, sales of an ICDD gift card, and a one-time computer software expense. The budget calls for income and expenses of \$585,260.

A vote by the board is required prior to expenditures for Snow Removal, Free Public Wi-Fi, and Security Cameras.

Bill Nusser moved to approve the proposed FY2014 Operating Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Joni Schrup. There was no discussion. The motion passed 13-0.

8. ICDD Marketing

Catherine Champion, Committee Chairperson, outlined plans to expand the IC adaptable logo and brand to radio, television and social media. Arts & events are the focus for the near future as well as way finding. Champion expressed gratitude to Betsy Potter for her work on the marketing calendar.

9. Executive Director’s Report

In addition to her written report, Bird explained the rainy weather, and an illness affecting the lead painter, have delayed painting the benches.

Mark Ginsberg left the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

10. Ex Officio Updates

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

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Geoff Fruin, City of Iowa City: None.

11. Board Member Announcements/Reminders

David Kieft stated major University of Iowa construction on the new Music Building will begin soon with demolition of two former bank buildings at Burlington and Clinton Streets.

Consensus agreed to suggestion to explore imprinting ICDD logo on credit card folders to be distributed to district restaurants and bars.

11. Adjourn

Bill Nusser moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m. Ritu Jain seconded the motion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patty McCarthy, Secretary