

IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 24, 2012

Voting Members Present: Kevin Digmann, George Etre, Mark Ginsberg, Ritu Jain, Kent Jehle, David Kieft, Karen Kubby, Patty McCarthy, Bill Nusser (in at 3:03 p.m.), Joni Schrup, Naftaly Stramer, Mark Weaver.

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

Staff Present: Nick Arnold, Nancy Bird.

Voting Members Absent with Notice: Catherine Champion, Steve Pajunen.

1. Call to Order

President Karen Kubby called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Riverside Casino Meeting Room of the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce, 325 E. Washington St., Iowa City, Iowa.

A quorum of 11 of 14 voting members was present.

2. Member Open Forum

David Kieft announced the University of Iowa was just notified that FEMA funding is approved to replace the flooded Hancher Auditorium, and Voxman School of Music.

(Bill Nusser entered the meeting at 3:03 p.m.)

Mark Nolte announced the lease has been signed to create a unique co-working space at 332 S. Linn St. An open house is planned on November 15, 2012.

Nancy Bird introduced Katie Seyfer, one of four ICDD Interns this semester. Bios of all are in the meeting packet.

3. Presentation and Vote on September Meeting Minutes

Patty McCarthy moved to approve the September 27, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Kevin Digmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

4. President's Report

Karen Kubby stated the Iowa City City Council approved the ICDD Operating Agreement at its meeting last night. Kubby and Nancy Bird attended the meeting. Bird was introduced to the Council.

The next Board meeting will be November 28th. The December meeting is cancelled.

(Marc Moen, ICDD member and former Board member, entered the meeting at 3:09 p.m.)

Public Policy Stand Process (Vote)

Discussion was held on a Draft Policy presented by McCarthy. The Executive Director will communicate policy stands. Efforts will be made to allow all board members to participate in the decision making process. If timing is an issue, the Executive Committee will convene to determine the ICDD position.

Mark Weaver moved to approve the Policy with the clarifications noted above. Bill Nusser seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

5. Treasurer's Report

Kent Jehle reviewed the September 30, 2012, Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss by Class, and A/R Aging Summary financial statements distributed in the board packet. He noted payment of the Directors & Officers Insurance, and bonding for Treasurer, President, and Executive Director six-month premium.

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Jehle reminded Committee Chairpersons of the November 9, 2012, deadline for submission of proposed FY14 budgets to the Finance Committee. The City of Iowa City deadline is in December.

Jehle stated preparation of the 990 tax return is underway. The accounting firm may request a filing deadline extension.

Kent Jehle moved to approve the September 30, 2012, Treasurer's Report as presented. Joni Schrup seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

6. Legislative Committee Report

Dogs on Ped Mall (Vote)

Discussion was held on Legislative Committee proposal to request that the City Council lift the ban on dogs on the Pedestrian Plaza. Moen stated the Sheraton Hotel and hotelVetro are both pet friendly and it is inconvenient for guests to bypass the Ped Mall with their pets. There is no ban outside the ped mall. Concerns about waste cleanup, unleashed pets, and pet presence during events with large crowds were discussed. Geoff Fruin stated the City Council could consider the issue at a November meeting.

Bill Nusser moved to recommend the City of Iowa City lift the ban for pets on the Pedestrian Plaza, and continue to enforce all other applicable laws with special attention paid to public health concerns, and the area around the playground, and planters. David Kieft seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

Afterhours Business Policy

Discussion was held on an anonymous inquiry received by the City of Iowa City regarding rules and regulations for opening a non-alcoholic business after hours (2 a.m.) Downtown. There is no restriction on this. No action was taken.

7. Marketing Update

Nancy Bird stated she will continue visiting restaurants to communicate ICDD news.

8. Seasonal Ice Rink (Vote)

Discussion was held on advisability of renting or purchasing polymer ice rink for potential year round use. The question arose during Celebrate the Season planning in the Special Events Committee. Nick Arnold stated rental rates of \$10,000 for two days and \$37,000 for one month. Purchase price ranges are \$50,000-\$100,000. Issues about location, insurance, whether other communities or businesses would want to be potential partners, and the need to seek sponsors to help cover the costs were discussed.

Bill Nusser moved to recommend rental of a polymer ice rink for two days on November 30, and December 1 during Celebrate the Season if a sponsor could be identified to cover the cost. Joni Schrup seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 10-2. Kevin Digmann and Karen Kubby opposed the motion.

9. Parking Proposal (Vote)

Discussion was held on Infrastructure Committee request that the City of Iowa City amend parking fees to encourage turnover at on-street meters, use of parking ramps, and offer free parking. Geoff Fruin stated the City Parking Department is interested in submitting a budget proposal to purchase updated equipment to facilitate changes.

Concerns expressed included permit holders being unable to return to the ramp to park if they left during the day for meetings, and impact on evening events if meter rates were extended. There was consensus that additional information prior to a vote on the issue. Fruin will organize a separate presentation for all board members with the Parking Department to answer questions in the next week or so.

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(Kevin Digmann and Josh Schamberger left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.)

10. Executive Director Report

Nancy Bird stated she looks forward to providing input to the City of Iowa City's Request For Proposals to engage those who will help with upgrading the Pedestrian Plaza and other downtown area. In response to a question, Geoff Fruin stated the RFP is expected to be published in late November, and will likely have a 45 day response deadline.

11 Adjourn

Bill Nusser moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Ritu Jain seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patty McCarthy, Secretary