

**Iowa City Downtown District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2018**

Voting Members Present: Joni Schrup, Susan Craig, Michelle Galvin, Anne Armitage, Jigna Janie, Amber Neville, Mark Ginsberg, Jason Deppe, Nick Lindsley, Jigna Janie, Greg Turner,

Non-voting Members Present: Aimee Jennings, Kate Moreland, Kim Casko

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Christopher Hunter, Marcus Brown

Voting Members Absent with Notice: Monica Moen, Wesley Ward, Bill Nusser, David Kieft, Katie Roche, Naftaly Stramer, Cady Gerlach, Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek

Guests: Maura Pilcher

Call to Order

President Galvin called the meeting to order at 9:03 in Meeting Room D of the Iowa City Public Library.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Schrup/Ginsberg) to accept the September minutes. Motion passed 11-0.

Financials

Turner presented the financial reports. He noted the decision last month to increase the amount in reserves, that we did not make our budget projection for Octoberfest, and the downtown trolley may be dropped from holiday plans due to lack of a sponsor. Motion from Ginsberg/seconded by Schrup to approve the Financial Reports. Motion passed 11-0.

Downtown Historic Survey

Guest Maura Pilcher (yes, sister to Mary Kate) walked the group through the recent report to the City Council on historic areas in the downtown prepared by consultant Alexa McDowell. She felt it was a very good report with an interesting take on considering the Urban Renewal era buildings as historic even though they do not fit the 50+ year guideline. As part of the process, there were several public forums and the report was just recently discussed with the City Council. You could view that meeting and Alexa's presentation at the City website. The Council now needs to decide what, if any, steps they want to take next. They have asked the Historic Preservation Commission to make a recommendation. Nancy suggested that the Legislative Committee could look at the issues and consider whether a separate group should

be formed that would include some property owners of the structures. As the City moves forward the District needs to have a voice in their deliberations.

Staff Reports

Reports were abbreviated due to time constraints, typical kinds of activities going on. Written reports

Ex-Officio Reports

Aimee reported that there are changes in the works for SOTA programming, Jazz Fest is being cut from 3 days to 2 and there will be a couple of ticketed events at the Englert. Soul Fest will be all about both blues and soul music and it will be the first weekend in August. Next year Friday night concerts will be held on the Northside one Friday night a month.

Kate shared that MERGE is getting a new vestibule and they are looking forward to people being able to find their front door. They have had a couple of tenants move out so looking for people to fill those spaces. Drop in seats are available. They were recently finalists for a National Award, in the end losing out to a much larger town. They will be opening a small space in Coralville with the City of Coralville next month.

Announcement:

Don't forget the Shop Crawl this Friday, there are a few tickets left.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:03.

Recorded by Susan Craig