

Iowa City Downtown District
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2020

Voting Members Present: Charlie Nusser, Karen Kubby, Cady Gerlach, Ritu Jain, Amber Neville, David Kieft, Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek, Monica Moen, John Schickendanz, Wendy Ford, Monica Moen, Colin Fowler, Jason Deppe, Dave Nerad, Michelle Galvin

Non-Voting Members Present: David Schwindt, Nick Pfeiffer, Kevin Boyd, Matt Getz

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Betsy Potter, Marcus Brown, Christopher Hunter, Thomas Agran, Nick Pfeiffer

Call to Order: The meeting of the Iowa City Downtown District Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Mary Kate at 9:02am at cross park place

Motion to approve jan minutes, Monica Moen, 2nd Ritu Jain,

9:04 am) Approval January Financials:

Decision to defer discussion on budget reserves till the next month or two

Discussion on SSMID payments, and gift card fraud case, Marcus spoke and unfortunately the case was lost and the question was raised as to whether we should change credit card processors from square to a different one that is more customer oriented.

Motion to approve David Kieft, second Michelle Galvin

9:10 am) Legislative Committee Recap and Presentation Introductions:

Karen Kubby discussed liquor law licenses and ordinances. The 500 foot ordinance prohibits expansion of footprint. The owner of Donnelly's wants to purchase Saloon and combine the two businesses. They both have 2:00 am liquor licenses so the overall footprint isn't expanded or the license changed. The discussion at legislative raised questions about pushing for an exemption or appeal process to the 500 foot ordinance. City manager and attorney declined the proposal citing an "expansion" violation, but a meeting has been set between the City and ICDD members to discuss possible changes/processes moving forward. Cady Gerlach led the presentation on Cross Park Place and Shelter House. Press Citizen, Channel 4, and other media were present.

9:16) Matt Miller's Presentation (Project Manager-Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center)

Matt Miller was the first presenter and discussed the soon to be constructed "Guide Link Center", an access center offering screening, treatment, crisis stabilization, detox, medical first aid, subacute care, sobering, stabilization and connection with resources. A brief history of the access center was given going back to discussions in 2010 to discuss how systems of care can be better coordinated. By January 2018 it was legally required for at least six access centers to be operational in Iowa leading to the inception of Guide Link Center.

The Guide Link Center will offer the following additional services: Mobile Crisis Outreach 24/7, Low Barrier Winter Shelter and the following potential future services: medication assisted treatment, primary care, and/or dental care. Staff will be provided by numerous medical/health professionals across Johnson county various services providers. Abbe-Health will be the managing entity handling day-to-day operations. Abbe Mental Health, Penn Center, CommUnity, Prelude will be the most prominent 4 sub agencies. Mercy, College of Nursing, JCAS, UI Health Care will be the main sources of employees.

The goal of the Guide Link Center will be to avoid overly medicalizing or criminalizing behavioral health issues. Ideally there will be a diversion of unnecessary emergency room treatment, more efficient utilization of law enforcement, and a “one stop shop” that connects patients to ongoing services. This model has precedent and recognized cost efficiencies (Kansas City and San Antonio). The capital funding goal is 10.1 million dollars and the goal has almost been met with \$10,044,141 raised. The location will be about the size of a football field, and ideal completion and opening is by December 2020.

9: 30) Dave Schwindt’s Presentation (Iowa City Police Officer)

Dave Schwindt was the first Downtown police officer liaison, a position prompted by discussions with the larger community citing general feelings of uneasiness not being safe. Officer Schwindt started in January 2013 and quickly noticed issues with bath salts and synthetic marijuana that were causing behavioral/medical issues and sold at stores downtown. The aftermath of this and other developments led Schwindt to realize the importance of showing face and maintaining relationships with the community especially the homeless population. A Housing First Study was conducted in 2014 that raised the question of how cities can calculate the costs of people living on the street (ER visits, jail, etc). In 2015 Shelter House established a temporary Winter Shelter because of severe winter cold and the way it impacted the homeless community. A case study on 4 homeless people showed a cost of \$140,000 per person for use of services per year at the taxpayers’ expense. Data Driven Justice Pilot Study in Iowa City was selected along with three other programs in the nation and awarded a 3.1 million grant.

9:45 am) Chrissy Canganelli’s Presentation (Executive Director of Shelter House)

Chrissy Canganelli spoke on the importance of Permanent Supportive Housing: affordable housing with support for people to stay housed. Evidence-based housing intervention prioritized for individuals with complex behavioral/health issues for whom homelessness has become a chronic condition.

- Housing First: Stable housing is the first and primary need for people experiencing chronic homelessness. Access barriers like employment, drug use, med compliance, etc should not be used to keep people from housing. People are better equipped to combat these issues and improve once housing has been already provided. Cross Park Timeline (case studies 2014-2015-100% occupancy June 2019). Correlations can be seen between use of services and operational time of Winter shelters (calls for vagrancy, emergency room visits, etc). The logistical timeline of CPP was given in terms of how funding was obtained, legislation was changed, etc to make this project possible.
- Referral and Prioritization for Tenancy: Outreach began in June, 2018 final list was 90+, identified through Coordinated Entry Verified Chronic Homeless Status, specific criteria, and

VI-SPDAT tool to calculate acuity of need. Individuals were also selected based on their cost of services over 4 years prior.

- Tenant engagement: Case management like securing income, managing medical needs and appts, court cases, independent living skills, other personal goals.
- Harm Reduction: Increased service contact and unconventional, but effective means of curbing harmful behavior.
- On Site Medical: Behavioral health clinical services

10:08 am) Officer Colin Fowler's Presentation (Current Downtown Liaison officer)

Colin Fowler was a Downtown beat cop during the same time David Schwindt was, and would deal with the same repeated persons while patrolling. Cross Park Place has created a permanent and significant change and he has noticed a significant change in the dynamic between the homeless and Downtown.

10:13 am) Question and Answer/Additional Comments

Questions were raised regarding whether there are still assistance averse individuals and how they can be reached and convinced of CPP and similar services can be helpful. It was mentioned that there will be a possible need of 60 more units with potential family units not just those single adults. Nancy spoke on the necessity of Board involvement/knowledge of the community issues, Crisis training, ALICE Training, etc.

Staff Update: N/A

Ex Officio : N/A

On motion by Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek, second by Ritu Jain, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:17 am.