

**Iowa City Downtown District**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2021**

Voting Members Present: Greg Turner, Cady Gerlach, Nick Lindsley, Charlie Nusser, Elsworth Carman, Karen Kubby, Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek, Monica Moen, Nina Lohman, Ritu Jain, Michelle Galvin

Non-Voting Members Present: Kate Moreland, Nick Pfeiffer, Abby Restko, Chastity Dillard, Rachel Kilburg, Nancy Bird

Staff Present: Nancy Bird, Betsy Potter

Guest: Cory Kent

Call to Order: The meeting of the Iowa City Downtown District Board of Directors was called to order by President Lindsley at 9:01am on Zoom.

November Minutes: On motion by Nusser, second by Jain, the minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

Financial Updates: Treasurer Turner presented the financial report, sharing the Balance Sheet of the organization and described the reserve accounts and project accounts of the organization. Turner then shared the Profit and Loss statements and those items associated with events, sponsorships, and timing of income and expenses. Turner and Bird took questions on the P&L from the Board. On motion by Hayek, second by Moen, the financials were approved unanimously by the Board.

Discussion with Restaurant Owners on City Ordinance Exception: Bird presented a history of the 500 Foot Rule and the 21 Ordinance, definitions of drinking and eating establishments, the intent of the ordinances at adoption, and exceptions to the rules and the impacts of the ordinances on ICDD business and restaurants. Bird then reviewed the other interventions in the area and future trends in nightlife. Bird shared the map of those licenses for 12am and 2am, grandfathered properties, and the difference in value created by these exceptions. Bird then introduced Cory Kent, a business owner in the district. Kent shared his experience as a restaurant owner in Downtown with a 12am license, the 500 foot rule, and the 21 ordinance. Kent also shared attraction techniques he has been working on with ICDD and City staff for those operators that have the abilities to meet expectations balanced with opportunities. Kent shared the discussions they have had with the City staff regarding measuring food and beverage sales, and what they have asked for to create these exceptions to the ordinances. Kent asked the City to keep the 500 foot rule, but that an establishment has to prove 60% food sales, which would allow an exception to the 2am rule and a two year period to test the sample. Kent took questions from the members, discussed the process and ongoing concerns. Bird shared a slide with the Board about proposed exceptions and review periods to determine the success and performance of the initiative. On motion by Kubby, second by Nusser, the ICDD Board voted unanimously to support the proposed exception as discussed by the ICDD and Kent, to support exceptions for those restaurants who have only a 12am use at the current time.

Ex Officio: Nick Pfeiffer shared updates from Think Iowa City including vaccine rollout marketing. Rachel Kilburg shared Iowa City transit updates on flex zones parking and picnic table rollouts for COVID outdoor

seating. Chastity Dillard shared updates from NCJC and staff vaccinations. Kate Moreland shared updates from ICAD, including a new business development staff member, and the Project Better Together vaccine adherence, long term remote working trends, and getting a sense of commercial spaces. Abby Restko shared Summer of the Arts update, including in person events, and that Arts Fest will now be held in August on 8/15-16/21. Most festivals will be planned for scaled down versions. SOTA is hiring a Development Director as well.

Staff Updates: Betsy shared updates from the Top Chef event, One Book Two Book Festival. Betsy discussed the Block Party with the Board. The Board packet has additional information.

Board Discussion: Ritu Jain discussed the Farmer's Market and moving the market into Downtown spaces. Jain shared that this might be the year to try a nontraditional market outside of the ramp. Bird shared that she would circle back with members about this.

On motion by Jain, second by Hayek, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06am.