

**Summit Downtown, Inc.**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**April 28, 2021 8:00AM**  
**Virtual Meeting with Video and Audio**

**Members Present:** Matthew Strauss, Leslie Herman, Nora Radest, Karen Schneider, Claire Toth, Bob Conway, Greg Vartan, David Naidu, Antonietta LaVecchia, Ray Merritt, , Lauren Decker. Staff: Nancy Adams and Amanda Lynn

**Members Absent:** Michael Rogers, Allison Daubel, Kim Hamilton

**Members of Public:** Summit Public Art Members: Estelle Fournier, Vivian Furman Rubin, & Debi Schwarzmann; Tony Melchionna

Bob Conway called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Bob Conway

Minutes were presented for approval. The March minutes were moved by Karen Schneider, seconded by Ray Merritt and unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE/PROJECT REPORTS**

**Finance Report** – Claire Toth

Claire asked when the SDI budget will be approved, Greg said the first meeting in May. Claire said we've a balance of operating account summary of 2021 numbers and we have just under \$79,000 in the surplus fund and just under \$104,000 in operating account. Nancy added that we've received a lot of fees from vendors for the Farmers Market so the operating account is higher now. No questions, approval of financials moved by Ray Merritt and seconded by Karen Schneider.

**Stakeholders Meeting:** Nancy reported that we are having a meeting on Zoom on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> hoping to get input from the businesses on how they're doing and what they need from SDI. She will give a presentation on what SDI accomplished in 2020, the same presentation she gave at the Council meeting. The mayor will give city updates and Amanda will give upcoming event information.

**Farmers Market:** Bob reported the Market opened April 18<sup>th</sup> and said it was the busiest opening day of the Farmers Market that he or any vendors can recall. He thinks there were a lot of new people who came during Covid last year and this year they came back along with those regular customers who hadn't come last year due to Covid fears. So it has a lot of new and old people and looked good especially with some rain. Nora concurred. SDI purchased a wooden beach fence that DPW will install to replace the failing orange snow fencing. While the wood one will be temporary because the city doesn't want a permanent fence, it will look better. Bob said he's noticed more people who are customers at the Farmers Market, especially new ones, are showing up in town on Saturdays to patronize stores and such; something he didn't really see before

**Events:** Amanda updated the Board on scheduling artists for the two months of Summit Street Sounds Thursday and Friday nights in June and July. She also explained that she's scheduling family style entertainers for Thursday nights in June in place of Family Fun Night. Street Sounds runs 5-8pm. Also, Family Night Out packages to encourage people to buy them and go picnic or do something outside their homes with chalk art or outside family games. Nora mentioned this is a good pivot and Nancy pointed out that these ideas are pretty much Amanda's and Jane's and she gives suggestions and approval. Arts + Cars is in planning stages; Nancy asked Nora who she should reach out to at Investors to ask to sponsor it because Regal pulled out. Nancy will reach out to Joe Stefans. Matthew asked about what sponsorships are available, Nancy will follow up with him.

**DCS/SDI Updates:** Tony Melchionna came to report on the monthly meeting with Aaron Schrage, Nancy & Mike Caputo. There was an outside company looking at the promenade fountain, everything seems to be working okay. There was an issue discussed about garbage cans downtown being close to outdoor eating and overflowing by the end of the day and smelling; Mike Caputo reported that they are emptied every morning; to have them washed regularly isn't really feasible. Saw some renderings of the horse trough area, addressing the design because the tree roots are lifting the sidewalks and creating a tripping hazard. Nancy said she preferred

the designs that let the trees remain but created seating that could keep the roots from the pedestrian right of way. The DPW is building the new shed at Lot #1 for the Farmers Market and it will be in the space near the rear of the lot by the pay station in the hashmark painted spot so no parking spaces are being lost; it'll cost about \$1,000. They were looking into putting more electricity in the parking lot, but not been done yet; the FM cannot have any more vendors needing electricity until more power is put into the lot. Tony mentioned that he brought up the electrical boxes downtown and having an artistic wrap or murals painted on them, which he thinks would look cool and we've been talking about for a while. Leslie asked how many electrical boxes, we think there's probably 4 downtown. She will research what it costs and how to get it done; she'll bring it up at SPA and it should also come to Design & Beautification Committee. Claire reported that the wraps reduce the heat inside the boxes as well. He reported that Nancy looked into covers for the barricades for street closing, she looked at Westfield but theirs look messy and she's still looking into those so long as they're more fitted. She's working with a company that makes displays that might be able to be used instead. Nora agreed the Westfield ones don't look good at all. One of the cables that holds the market string lights near Lululemon is down, Nancy will be reconnecting with Bruno of Powerhouse Signworks to come fix them and also he will be looking at installing anchors on the Roots and Summit House buildings to string lights over Maple Street, Nancy reports that we have the funds to install those additional lights. Board is good with the extra lights.

**Design & Beautification Committee:** Claire reported that we are doing a mural on the 6' tall white wall behind Summit Diner and D&B will be meeting next Thursday at the wall to go over the 3 artists that have submitted proposals and interest. SPA should have input as well as the owner of the diner.

**Summit Public Arts:** No real update other than SPA is extremely enthusiastic that they have SDI's financial support for the promenade fountain art project. Leslie will follow up with high school artists for the electrical boxes. Bob reported that he asked Nancy to set up a meeting with Estelle from SPA to coordinate art in the windows of stores during September in conjunction with Arts + Cars.

**Common Council Updates:** Nora reported that city is moving ahead with things; the budget is going to be down a bit. She asked about how our businesses are doing, many people are getting to the end of their ropes, so she hopes businesses are doing okay. Lots of vaccines are available and hoping more people get vaccinated. David reported that the state has given municipalities till August to opt out of allowing stores selling marijuana for recreational use. He confirmed that the city is thinking of redesign for the horse trough area.

**Public Input:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40am.

The next BOT meeting is May 26, 2021 via Zoom.