

**Summit Downtown, Inc.**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**June 29, 2022, 8:00AM**  
**In-Person/Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Mayor Nora Radest, Bob Conway, Kimberly Hamilton, Lauren Decker, Karen Schneider, Councilman Greg Vartan, Councilwoman Lisa Allen, Antonietta LaVecchia, David Bernat (zoom), Tony Melchionna, Leslie Herman, Claire Toth. Staff: Nancy Adams and Amanda Lynn

**Members Absent:** Michael Rogers, Ray Merritt

**Guests:** None

Chair Bob Conway called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

**Approval of Minutes – Bob Conway**

May minutes were presented for approval. The approval of the April minutes was moved by Tony M. and seconded by Claire T., and unanimously approved.

**Financials – Claire Toth**

Claire reported things are on track or ahead of schedule, because of the way things run like Farmers Market vendors pay ahead and for advertising we tend to advertise before events so advertising is ahead of schedule. Payroll looks light because both May & June were both paid in June, staff gets paid once/month to save SDI fees. We received the first two quarters of assessments so we are in good shape. We are still cleaning up from some journal entries in audits years past, but then the audit should start soon.

**Maple Street Update – Nancy**

Nancy reported that the surveys closed last Monday; 3 surveys went out to area residents, property owners and business owners. 1382 resident surveys were filled out, 53 businesses and 5 property owners. The consultant will be analyzing the results and using the results as part of his report. Leo (consultant) was also out on Maple St the other night watching people's movements and behavior. We're contracting with Colliers Engineering for \$16,000 (covered by the grant from the state); they will more than likely do the traffic analysis starting in the fall when school is back. Focus groups will start in a couple of weeks, starting with Maple St area property owners' focus group. The list will be inclusive of property owners within 200' of Maple St. Lisa A. asked if we'll be able to see the raw data from the surveys, curious of what the comments are. Nancy will ask the consultant about that but we did ensure privacy so perhaps there's a way to share the raw data without revealing the names of the respondents. Lisa asked if police & fire will be part of focus groups, Nancy responded that Leo will be meeting with them and engineering separately in his work. Nora responded that police and fire have been involved in these discussions from the beginning of closing Maple, so of course they will be involved in the decision process. Lisa commented that the accident on Rt 24 caused a lot of traffic issues downtown and worried it was worse because of Maple St being closed; she asked if SDI makes the decision about the closure and Nora said that Common Council will make the decision.

**July/August Board Meeting – Bob Conway**

Bob reported that the July/August meeting will be July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Orange Bollards – Bob Conway**

Bob showed bollards that Westfield downtown has and they look a LOT better than the orange ones all over downtown Summit that look awful. These nicer ones also hold a sign that says, "No Parking Any Time by order of Police" whereas Summit's orange ones don't say anything, they're just all over and the signage is not there so people just move them. Karen noted that there's not striping on the street and maybe that will help. Bob asked Lisa to talk about it at public safety meeting. Bob mentioned it would be nice to clearly state you can't park there but not look so uninviting to customers. Nancy mentioned that she's working with Summit Public Art and they got a \$5,000 grant to work together to paint or otherwise beautify the jersey barriers. Karen asked if the barricades at the top of Maple at DeForest could be removed because it keeps people from using the 500 alley and isn't necessary to keep people from driving into closed section. Tony pointed out that all the orange barricades on the Union Place end of Maple were intended to keep trucks and others from parking there by the curb, but it just moved the trucks farther into the street and they still park there. Enforcement of no parking spaces is really the best way to stop the illegal parking and loading rather than putting so many

barricades around. Tony mentioned there is a huge tractor trailer that parks on Springfield Ave near Maple at 6:30 at night and they should not be delivering that late in the middle of downtown. Greg suggested businesses talk with their regular delivery drivers to park where they're supposed to so as not to cause issues downtown. Nora will talk to engineering and police regarding the barricades and the delivery trucks.

#### **Tree Wells – Nancy**

Steve of Castle Point Landscape Design is waiting for planting materials and hopefully will be planted in the next couple weeks. Also talking to him about doing fall maintenance of cutting back and etc. so things look neater off season and come back stronger next year. We've asked him to plant more densely and more tree wells so the cost will be 50% more than budgeted.

#### **Event Updates – Amanda Lynn**

Amanda reported that we had Family Fun Night June 9<sup>th</sup> and it was incredibly successful event with thousands of attendees, good sponsors, good vendors and everyone had a great time. Thanks to all sponsors. Street Sounds is going strong now in week 4 and we haven't had any rainouts yet. We've been getting some incredible feedback from people on the street and how much they love it and thanking SDI for doing this. There are even a few people who come out and dance on Maple St and really set a nice atmosphere. Arts + Cars is coming up before you know it on September 18<sup>th</sup> and we're already working on it. Tony raised the issue of Maple St being closed and closing all the other streets for Arts + Cars; he loves the event but worries about the traffic with Maple closed. Greg and Nancy reported that it was like that last year and maybe because it's a Sunday it's less of an impact. Nancy reported that Family Fun Night went really well but the beginning of it was chaotic because all the departments weren't really aware or remembered that it was happening so there was a lot of last-minute running around, finding owners of parked cars, etc. Bob mentioned Cars & Croissants on Father's Day was really well attended and there were a ton of people in town.

### **COMMITTEE/PROJECT REPORTS**

#### **DCS/SDI Updates – Tony Melchionna**

Sewers are flowing properly. Notices went out to downtown restaurants to tell restaurants not to put oil down the sewers. Power washing is having trouble getting the company to come downtown to do the work. Promenade art installation seems to be going on but it's a slower process than expected. Nancy and Amanda moved a lot of the public tables from the promenade to Maple St so people can use the public space on the end of Maple and listen to Street Sounds too. Aaron Schrager has more on order but not expected till Fall. Tony reported that CAPs committee doesn't want to do the fence at the farmers market lot and wants SDI to take the existing fence down toward the end of the season and test taping off the natural entrances instead for a few weeks to see how it works without having a fence at all. CAPs isn't convinced it makes sense to permanently fence the lot for a need that is one hour every Sunday. Tony asked Greg about the Wonder food trucks and is concerned they're going to invade downtown. Amanda mentioned that it's a different concept than a food truck in that you have to order it and they pull up to your door and there's not a lot of residents downtown. David B. mentioned we'll start seeing the Envoy trucks around because that's a division of Wonder which just delivers for restaurants and is supposed to be cheaper for the restaurants than Grubhub and other delivery services.

**Design Committee Updates –** Claire reported that we think we have a contract for the mural by the diner and should start soon. Summit Technology Center (old Verizon store) reopened as this new name and got a grant for their sign.

**Summit Public Arts –** Leslie reported that September 17<sup>th</sup> is the SPA Gala and the ribbon cutting for the fountain installation is September 21<sup>st</sup>. Nancy mentioned that the statues showed up downtown in locations that interfere with downtown music and reported that Aaron Schrager said they're going to make sure that SPA contacts SDI first with any installation so that the locations are okay for our events.

**Common Council Updates –** Greg reported they've had 3 council meetings in 3 weeks. Council voted last Tuesday to approve amendments in the BSW redevelopment plan, that decision was overturned the following meeting. The city will be returning to conversations with the developer to discuss new options for the plans that will hopefully have something to show in the Fall. It's important to do the redevelopment plan (with more communication and transparency) in order to fulfill court-ordered affordable housing and increase city revenue. Everyone will have to compromise because the alternative options are not good. If they don't meet the court mandated building of affordable housing, then they can be forced a builder's remedy where a builder will come in and build a huge building with all the units and the city would have no control over the project design or density or anything. What the city is trying to do revisit with the existing developer to address community concerns and hope to get to a solution that is more palatable to residents. Firehouse is moving forward, once the old one closes, there will be a big vacant space there until something is allowed to happen.

**New Business** – None.

**Public Input** - None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10am.

**The next BOT meeting is at 8AM July 27, at City Hall.**