

Summit Downtown, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 27, 2022, 8:00AM
In-Person/Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Bob Conway, Kimberly Hamilton, Lauren Decker (zoom), Karen Schneider, Councilman Greg Vartan, Antonietta LaVecchia, Tony Melchionna, Leslie Herman. Staff: Nancy Adams and Amanda Lynn

Members Absent: Mayor Nora Radest, Councilwoman Lisa Allen, Claire Toth, Ray Merritt, David Bernat, Michael Rogers

Guests: None

Chair Bob Conway called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Approval of Minutes – Bob Conway

June minutes were presented for approval. The approval of the June minutes was moved by Tony and seconded by Karen and unanimously approved.

Financials – Nancy Adams

In Claire's absence, Nancy reported things are pretty much on target, we received the first two quarters of the assessment from the city. It looks like we're over budget on advertising but that is because holiday 2021 is mostly paid in January of 2022. We are over budget on Fees because we paid the Board of Health for Farmers Market fees for 2021 and 2022 this year. We got refunded by the National Main Street Center for over \$1,000 for registration fees for the national conference Amanda and Nancy attended in the spring through a grant from Main Street NJ. Financials were moved and seconded by Tony & Kim, unanimously approved.

Bylaws – Bob

Bob reported that Executive Committee is working on the Bylaws; Nancy & Karen worked together on reformatting them to be clearer and more understandable. Karen added that the reformation makes the Bylaws cleaner and easier to reference.

Orange Bollards and Barricades Downtown – Bob

Nora was going to ask police to remove the barricades at the top of Maple by DeForest because they're redundant and cause drivers going to or from the alley to cross into the oncoming traffic lane adding a dangerous situation. In Nora's absence, Bob said she'd report on this at the next meeting. Greg reported that the city with parking services is looking at the overall issue of parklets, 15-minute spots, etc. Tony said it's dangerous because people push the bollards and park anyway and make turnarounds too. Greg is going to connect with the new Chief of Police about the safety issues and the need for enforcement downtown and let Nancy know who she should connect with regarding painting the barricades (a project supposed to be done with Summit Public Art from a Union County grant) and making sure the police are okay with it.

Tree Wells – Nancy

Over 80 tree wells were fully planted, and people should water them as needed since it's been so hot and dry this summer. The city is watering them most early mornings.

Event Updates – Amanda Lynn

Amanda reported Summit Street Sounds (SSS) has gone really well and we've hired some new great talent. SSS will return for 8 weeks but only on Fridays during September and October beginning after Labor Day and until October 28th. Trick or Treat will be on October 28th downtown from 2:30 – 4pm. Restaurant Week is currently happening and there are some really great menus out there so people have some nice opportunities to try some new restaurants and we're running a contest that is going to allow us to gather some data. Arts + Cars is coming before we know it on September 18th; we are looking for volunteers for the Beer & Wine Garden. We're working with Bull 'n Bear and Cambridge Wines again for the alcohol.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT REPORTS

DCS/SDI Updates – Tony Melchionna

Sewers are flowing properly. Power washing is scheduled to be done with a new contractor Nancy found. For \$2,950 we will do Lyric Park including the seat wall, the sidewalk on west side of Beechwood and the corners near garbage cans and the promenade. The money for this will be from Capital account in Haven. Nancy reported that the city has replaced all the liners in the garbage cans and cleaned underneath them, so that's great and combined with the power washing, things should look better. Contractor will also do awnings for individual businesses while he's working; Nancy will send notification to the businesses where he's working. Tony reported that the promenade fountain project is not done yet, but DPW has done everything they were required to do and waiting on the artist to finish. The city has refreshed some striping downtown and slated to do more. He also reported how appreciative he is to DCS with Aaron and Mike who are so responsive to any requests from SDI and it's a fantastic relationship.

Design Committee Updates – Nancy reported that the mural by the diner is finally done and has received really great response and it looks really nice. A couple grant applications will be coming in from new businesses.

Summit Public Arts – Leslie reported that September 17th is the SPA Gala with an auctioneer and invited everyone to share the news to get people to go. Leslie asked about the mural on Union Place and who's property that is; Nancy responded that it's the Diner's property and she had asked Jimmy at Summit Diner several years ago if he'd be interested in having a mural painted on that blank wall and he agreed so long as he didn't have to pay for it. Leslie asked how the mural on the side of the barbershop happened, Nancy said it was done by the owner of the barbershop and private buildings need no permission or approval for painting their buildings. Ribbon cutting for promenade fountain installation is September 22nd at 5pm.

Common Council Updates – Greg reported the Firehouse is on schedule and coming along really nicely. Broad Street West developers have been directed to redo their plans, reducing size, providing adequate parking, more transparency. The city has engaged new financial advisors who are more experienced in redevelopment. There's hope that the redesign will be something that can clearly be identified as "Summit." If the project doesn't move forward, the court can require the city to do a "Builders Remedy" to provide the obligated affordable housing component and the city and community would have no say on the design, size, scope of that so it's preferable to proceed with the redevelopment project so they can have input on the design. Greg asked where we are on the Maple St report; Nancy responded that we are currently setting up property owner focus group and a business owner focus group and she's waiting for Colliers to get back to her regarding the traffic study. Greg wants to get things figured out regarding parklets and Maple St so businesses can plan for next year and he would like SDI's help with these decisions. He said they will likely be charging for use of the street for dining like in the streateries; that may limit them automatically if businesses don't think it's worth it to pay for them. The report will probably be done in late October/early November.

New Business – None.

Public Input - None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48am.

The next BOT meeting is at 8AM September 28, at City Hall.