

Summit Downtown, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 27, 2019 8:00AM
City of Summit City Hall, Whitman Room

Members Present: Pat Angelo, Steve Bowman, Bob Conway, Joseph Hamilton, Leslie Herman, Beth Little, Tony Melchionna, Ray Merritt, Nora Radest, Karen Schneider, Matthew Strauss, and Claire Toth. Staff: Nancy Adams and Kathryn Best.

Members Absent: David Gittleman and Michael Rogers.

Guests: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Bob Conway

Minutes were presented for approval. Tony Melchionna moved that the January 2019 minutes be approved. Karen Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Bob Conway

Bob postponed his remarks until later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT REPORTS

FINANCE – Claire Toth

Claire informed the Board that SDI's budget will be presented at one of Common Council's April meetings, at the same meeting at the City's budget.

The \$2,500 equipment spend was SDI's contribution to Hometown Heroes for the brackets.

Tony Melchionna made a motion to approve the January financials as presented. Mayor Radest seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

CORNER NO PARKING CONES AND ENFORCEMENT – Bob Conway

Bob informed the Board of his concerns with the cones/stanchions near crosswalks in the downtown. He's concerned that the message isn't being effectively communicated. The cones are frequently dirty and broken. The "no parking" signs that are duct taped onto the cones blow off, and then there aren't signs on the cones. Bob has consistently seen people, including delivery truck drivers, move the cones and park in the area anyways. The police, however, seem to only be ticketing customers, not the delivery trucks. Steve Bowman said that Rita McNany is looking into purchasing different cones, more like the ones in Westfield. Mayor Radest said she would raise the issue at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Ray Merritt said that since the Board's discussion about the Union Place traffic at last month's meeting, he has noticed that the issue is people stopping in the roundabout. There are no signs that say "no stopping in the roundabout". Perhaps signage or striping in the roundabout would help alleviate the problem. Ray also suggested adding the Park Mobile zone numbers to the signs that direct people to the pay kiosk. Beth Little said that she would talk to Rita about the signage. Discussion continued.

PARKING DIRECTIONAL SIGNS & DCS/SDI MEETING REPORT – Tony Melchionna and Nancy Adams

- The P Signs were not budgeted for 2019, so their installation may not be immediate. Nancy told the Board that if they wanted the signs installed sooner, they could discuss funding them. Claire added that SDI's parking marketing money could be spend on the signs. Beth Little said that she would look into what the signs would cost.
- Aaron has one of his interns walking around and making note of which wickets are to be removed.
- The new light pole still hasn't been installed in Park & Shop Lot 2. Apparently JCP&L came to install it, but the lot wasn't shut down. Rita will be in contact with JCP&L to coordinate now.
- The shrubs on the Maple Street side of Park & Shop Lot 2 have almost all died or been run over, so those will need to be replaced. Nancy added that Aaron thinks there should be a fence on that side of the parking lot. They discussed having a landscape architect draw up some designs for a few areas around town and taking them on as our budget permits. Tony said that he hopes the Park & Shop Lot 2 shrubbery costs can be split between SDI and the Parking Authority.
- The alleyway behind Dunkin Donuts parallel to Union Place is not in the budget for this year, but Aaron is going to see if it can still be done this year.
- The loading zones will be painted this spring.

- Aaron is looking into how much money is left over from the Clean Communities grant from 2018.
- The City will be sending out a grease management handout with sewer tax bills.

EVENT UPDATES – Kathryn Best and Nancy Adams

Stakeholder Meeting

The first stakeholder meeting of 2019 will be held at the Wine List and Marketplace on Wednesday, March 6. Networking begins at 5:30pm and the meeting begins at 6pm. Greg Elliott from TapInto Summit talk to businesses about advertising opportunities. Melissa Spurr from Green Summit will speak about green practices for business. The Mayor will give updates from the City, including the Broad Street Redevelopment Project. SDI will announce our 2019 events and new businesses will have the chance to introduce themselves and their businesses.

Design Day – Design Day will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 11am-5pm. Posters have been printed and distributed. The street banner will be going up in the beginning of March. We've branded our design niche as Summit Design District and had a logo designed. Summit Design District will have its own dedicated Instagram (@summitdesigndistrict) which will be launching later today. Jane, our Marketing Admin, has done a phenomenal job taking photos in the design businesses with her own professional camera. 10 design businesses have signed up to do special events, but most of them are still figuring out exactly what they'll be doing. Once we have the details, they'll be on our website, Facebook event, and a printed postcard. We're working with Jessica Hobson for the event since she has a good pulse on the event's target audience.

Arts + Cars – Nancy is working on applying for the Social Affairs permit for the beer garden. Bull & Bear, the new microbrewery opening on Springfield Avenue, will be the beer supplier.

COMMON COUNCIL UPDATE – Mayor Radest, Steve Bowman, Beth Little

The City is taking down 80 ash trees due to the emerald ash borer. The vast majority of the trees are on residential property, not downtown. The trees will be replaced with a variety of species so we wouldn't lose them all if there's another species-specific issue. The City is working on their budget. The last Common Council meeting was snowed out, so SDI's events will be on the next meeting's agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Angelo called the Board's attention to "the two Eds" that work at Village Trattoria. The twins both have cardiomyopathy and have had to undergo expensive surgeries, which have put them out of work. They are both on the waiting list for heart transplants. Louis, the owner of Village Trattoria, has gone above and beyond and treated the twins like his own sons. Pat believes Louis deserves some kind of commendation. Mayor Radest added that there will be a fundraiser at the Elks sometime in the future. Nancy said that, assuming Louis would be at that fundraiser, SDI could give Louis an award and recognize him at that event. Discussion continued.

Pat also added that there have been an influx of scammers in the past month. People are going to restaurants and claiming that their takeout orders were wrong knowing that restaurant owners will give them gift cards. Another man with a foreign accent went to the Committed Pig, asked for Pat by name, and said he heard that Pat is a good guy and would give him a job that night so he could buy a train ticket back to Washington DC to get to the consulate. Perhaps word is getting around that Summit restaurants are extremely accommodating. Scammers have recently been to the Committed Pig, Pizza Vita, one of the liquor stores, Village Trattoria, La Pastaria, and some places in New Providence. Pat does have a photo of one of the men who did this. Mayor Radest encouraged Pat to file a police report and give them the photo, just so they're aware of what's going on.

Aaron Schrager suggested that SDI bring some of their gift card posters to City Hall, so we'll be handing those out.

Nancy has reached out to the general manager at the Grand Summit Hotel to discuss them selling Summit Gift Cards since they're open 24/7 and hasn't heard back. Nancy asked if any of the trustees have a good relationship with Yogi, but no one did.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

Tony Melchionna made a motion to adjourn, and Karen Schneider seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53am.

The next Trustee meeting is March 20, 2019.