



Summit Downtown, Inc.

18 Bank Street, Suite 108 | P.O. Box 1502

Summit, NJ 07902-1502

P. 908-277-6100/6101 | F. 908-273-9256

office@summitdowntown.org

www.summitdowntown.org

To: Summit Downtown, Inc. Board of Trustees
From: Tony Melchionna
Date: May 13, 2015
Re: Summit Downtown, Inc. Board of Trustees
March 13, 2015

Members Present: Bob Conway, Chris Cotter, Lori Dahl, Mayor Dickson, Al Dill, Rich Lorensen, Sandy Lizza, Tony Melchionna, Kevin Smallwood, Susan Taylor, Robert Weakley, and Kathryn Werlein.

Members Absent: Toni George and Beth Welsh.

Guests: Mike McTernan – Common Council Member
Beth Kinney – Director, Department of Community Services
Dr. Robert Rubino – President, Common Council

Tony Melchionna called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

Tony began by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting.

Sandy Lizza let everyone know that the previous night advertising the bid for the Downtown Improvement Project was introduced at Common Council. It will take a month to get the bids back, then an additional week to evaluate them. She reminded everyone that a decision isn't necessarily needed today.

Beth Kinney replied that the core items need to be decided upon today so the City knows how to present the bid. The alternative bids, especially the Wi-Fi, can still be question marks.

Marin clarified that the amount of money listed for the conduit is not just for the physical conduit. It also includes digging down further than would be necessary for the roads. Beth said she talked to the police about the cameras, and they are interested and excited by the possibility. But, that doesn't necessarily mean that it won't be five years before the cameras are ready to be installed. Beth reminded everyone that safety is part of SDI's mission.

Tony said that the Executive Committee met and came to a consensus on all the proposed items listed on the cost chart that was sent to everyone. When he speaks, he will be speaking on their behalf.

Trees and Plantings

Tony said that it is the Executive Committee's recommendation that SDI take the money that would be spent on this item and put it into the existing tree wells. Beth Welsh, who was unable to attend this meeting, wrote her opinions down. She is one hundred percent against putting in any additional plantings or flower beds. She feels that the sidewalks are getting more and more crammed as it is.

Beth Kinney stated that the planters on the curb in Lyric Park have been removed from the plan.

Rich Lorensen said that he has recently observed that the bump out by Winberie's seems to be a gathering place for people waiting to go into Winberie's. He feels it would be unwise to eliminate that space. Beth Kinney answered that that area was a drainage concern, especially when the water freezes. Adding a planting there would eliminate that problem. Al Dill agreed that the area is a gathering place. If the issue is drainage, then he feels the engineers should look into a different way of addressing that problem. Mike McTernan said that he thinks the planters should be added. They look nice, and you want to beautify the places where people gather. Just because the way the current plantings are maintained isn't optimal, that doesn't mean that we couldn't make plantings work in the future. Dr. Rubino added that, although he knows it can be expensive, you really need someone to take care of the plantings multiple times per week.

Beth Kinney and Tony said that Paul Cascais has his people downtown every week to clean the trash out of the treewells.

Beth Kinney passed out an amended cost estimate chart. The items in the base bid are things she feels we've reached a consensus on. The alternate bids are on the bottom of the chart.

Chris Cotter asked if the Wayfinding cost in the base bid included all signs, or just those in the CRBD. Beth said that they include all of the signs.

Tony asked all those in favor of the trees and plantings being included as a hard number in the base bid to raise their hands. No hands were raised.

Decorative Crosswalks

Al said his primary concern is safety. He asked if the City has talked to the police about the decorative crosswalks. Beth answered that they had.

Kathryn Werlein said that it seems like the decorative crosswalks will hold up about as well as the plain white striping. We want to be a distinguished town, so she thinks we should do them. Dr. Rubino agreed with Kathryn saying we want Summit to be visually memorable.

The consensus was to include the decorative crosswalks in the base bid.

Lyric Park Improvements

The Executive Committee strongly requests this be kept in the base bid. The consensus was to keep this item in the base bid.

Removable Bollards

These are currently listed as an alternate. Beth Kinney ran it by the police and fire departments who thought they wouldn't be a safety problem. Consensus was to leave them as an alternate bid.

Wayfinding

Marin said that, looking at the map, 10 signs are outside the dotted line, but there are also 15 on the far side of the train station. That means that there are technically only 12 signs inside the SID. Tony reminded everyone that SDI is technically not allowed to spend money outside the SID.

Marin said that, after meeting with Ray yesterday, the additional work needed on the signs will cost about \$6000. If he does the three park and shop lot kiosks, that will be another \$4500 to do the layout. SDI will have the option of bonding this cost.

Tony said that the Executive Committee felt that the cost should be split three ways between SDI, the City, and Parking Services.

Chris Cotter said that a third of the cost is roughly equal to the cost for the 12 signs in the SID, so this is a good plan.

Beth said that Aaron will evaluate the possibility of eliminating some of the signs. Tony agreed that is a good idea saying that was one of Beth Welsh's concerns as well.

The SDI Board reached the consensus to leave Wayfinding in the base bid with the stipulation that SDI will split the cost with the City and Parking Services.

Decorative Pavement

The Executive Committee is in favor of just doing the roundabout. Tony asked if anyone was opposed to this plan of action. No one spoke.

Decorative Pavement for All of Beechwood Road

Tony feels this is overkill. He's spoken to store owners on Beechwood Road, and they feel it is unnecessary. Bob Conway agreed that it isn't necessary.

Mike McTernan and Chris Cotter mentioned that this is definitely the hub for the town. This is an opportunity to create a focal point.

The consensus was to leave it in the alternative bid.

Wi-Fi

Between 8:45 and 8:55 Mayor Dickson, Mike McTernan, Sandy Lizza and Al Dill had to leave for another engagement. Before Al left, Tony asked him how Common Council feels about the Wi-Fi. Al answered that they are generally in favor of adding Wi-Fi, but that we need to be actively pursuing a meeting with Verizon. He feels it should be kept in the alternative bid.

Tony said that the Executive Committee feels that Wi-Fi and the conduit, especially considering how it will be used by the City, is part of the infrastructure.

Kathryn Werlein made a motion for SDI to cover listed in the "RECOMMENDED SDI" column (column E) in the base bid. Kevin Smallwood seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Robert Weakley is concerned that we haven't received any more information on the Wi-Fi. We need a report on best practices. He feels that it should be moved above the line and be included in the base bid. Tony answered that the concern is that SDI might get stuck with the whole cost, when it is truly a shared cost. Beth said that the way the bids are done, Wi-Fi will be listed as an alternative no matter what.

Dr. Rubino says that he is all for Wi-Fi in principle, but we really need more information. We need a report from Pat Hurley and the Technology Committee. We don't want install Wi-Fi if it will be out of date very soon. He agrees it should be a shared cost.

The consensus was to keep Wi-Fi as an alternative bid.

Kathryn Werlein asked that all the lamp posts be painted black since all the sign poles will be black. This way they will match and look more sophisticated.

Discussion closed. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rich Lorensen said that the metal edging for the beds in the Kaus Way alleyway are rusted and dangerous. They should be fixed. Many people walk through there to get to town from the tiered garage.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kevin. It was seconded by Lori, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.

The next Trustee meeting is May 27, 2015.