



**Downtown Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 4, 2022**

**Present:** Steve Rubin, Rick Hitchcock, Christine Jeffries, Tom Miers, Greg DeGeeter, Via Zoom: Doug Krieger, Patrick Kelly. Staff: Shannon Kunicki, Mike Panas.

The minutes from the March 7, 2022, meeting, were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Rick Hitchcock, seconded by Greg DeGeeter, unanimously approved.

**Downtown Streetscape Update:** In Bill Novack's absence, Christine gave updates on the downtown streetscape. Everything is on schedule, finishing utilities on Main Street no later than early next week.

**Washington Street Bridge:** Christine also updated us on the status of the Washington Street Bridge. The city still needs three out of the six land acquisitions, but city is optimistic all will be secured soon. Once they are all acquired IDOT will start letting bids in September.

**Nichols Library Parking Deck:** There was a public open house March 7, 2022. City staff was on hand to answer any questions and collect feedback from the public. Doug Krieger said that input from both sides was positive and more favorable than before.

**DCEO Planning/Study Grant:** DCEO is looking for grant applications for RISE, local and regional development grant to accelerate economic recovery by developing new and updating local regional or community centered economic plans. This would be a great opportunity for updating the downtown 2030 plan. The grant would be submitted by the city and a combined letter of support would come from DAC, NDP and NACC. Grant application is due May 9, 2022.

**Wayfinding Signs:** Rick Hitchcock outlined a plan for wayfinding signs in the downtown area. This would include the electronic signs and the street signs. Rick says this is a great opportunity to get going on this with the streetscape underway. This would be a collaboration between DAC and DNA. He recommended hiring a consultant to conceptualize downtown wayfinding as well as a conceptual design for branding and marketing.

**Outdoor Dining and Street Parking Spaces:** DAC was asked to take a position on the outdoor dining in the parking spaces in the downtown. Members pointed out that parking spots are at a premium especially with the streetscape construction continuing through the summer. The opportunity for outdoor dining was offered during the pandemic. It was recommended DAC send a letter that DAC does not support the use of parking spaces for outdoor dining in the downtown.

**Historic Landmarking:** This discussion was postponed until the May meeting and to be the first item on the agenda.

**New Business:** Discussion about public speakers at DAC meetings. Although DAC is a committee rather than commission, the group wants to keep the opportunity for public input but cap the time for speakers. It was suggested that public speakers would be given a ten-minute time limit to present to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm