



Downtown Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2023

**Present:** Steve Rubin, Tom Miers, Bill Novack, Greg DeGeeter, Danielle Tufano, Benny White, Christine Jeffries.

**Via Zoom:** Peggy Frank, Doug Krieger, Kaylin Risvold, Brien Nagle, Joe Costello, Katie Wood, Patrick Kelly.

**Staff & Guest:** Mikal Mayes, Derek McDaniel (via Zoom), Shannon Kunicki, Mike Panas.

The minutes for the April 3, 2023, DAC meeting were submitted. A motion was made by Tom Miers to approve the minutes, seconded by Greg DeGeeter, unanimously approved.

**Wayfinding Sign Update:** Danielle Tufano gave a brief update on the next step in the Wayfinding sign process. A collaborative open house with the city and DNA was held on April 13, 2023. Moderately attended, attendees seem to like the concept. Suggestions were made to better identify historic sites and buildings along with public art. The next step is for Hitchcock Design group to refine the concept, come up with an implementation strategy, cost, phasing and a master plan. The master plan will need to be approved prior city budgeting in the late summer, so the first phase of the signs can be considered for the 2024 budget.

**Van Buren Parking Deck:** Bill Novack updated the committee on the recent repairs to the VB Parking Deck. The deck is 22 years old and needs some structural repairs. The top floor and below are being worked on, the contractor has a double crew out there to get this knocked out while it is less busy.

**Washington Street Bridge:** Bill also updated the committee on the Washington street bridge project. The crew is working to finish up the new supports on the northern part of the bridge. Once that is done, they can move all of the traffic to the west side of the bridge to start tearing down the east side and start rebuilding the west half.

**Streetscape Look Ahead:** Next year Washington street and the east side of Main between Jefferson and Van Buren will take place. The artificial turf in the east parkway is looking a little rough so that will be replaced knowing that it will be torn up next year. A sample of the new turf can be seen in front of Quigley's.

**Parking Deck:** City staff is continuing to collect parking data for downtown, to see if there is a need for an additional parking deck. The plan is to meet with city council in July to discuss the next steps.

**Culture of the Downtown:** Steve Rubin opened the continuing discussion of how to maintain the culture of the downtown. The goal is to leave with some type of plan with steps to initiate this effort on culture moving forward. Document, preserve and establish a baseline as to what has been done to get where we are today. There was great discussion on the public private partnerships, the property owners willing to reinvest in the downtown, and the Naperville Can Do made the downtown evolve into what it is today. Peggy Frank said it would be a great idea to consolidate all the information into a comprehensive plan for the archives as well as a bite sized version that can be used moving forward. Peggy said she would "Help" with working on putting all the information together. Katie Wood said she would love to also help along with

Steve Rubin. Need to also look at what the threats are out there and what is happening downtown after 9pm. There is a complete difference between the daytime and nighttime downtown and need to look at ways to maintain the integrity of downtown. Steve suggested that a group meet up and walk downtown around 9pm or 10pm, to see what the issues are in the nighttime.

Recap of downtown culture discussion:

- Additional parking is needed- three new restaurants opening downtown.
- Property owners' involvement to continue the culture of the downtown.
- Streetscape- farmers markets/ car show
- Public partnership, SSA
- Parking- no meters
- Riverwalk- NCC & Settlement
- No train going through the downtown.
- Zoning- Retail only on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Meeting Adjourned 5:04pm