

## **Downtown Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2021**

**Present:** Steve Rubin, Christine Jeffries, Brien Nagle, Greg DeGeeter, Bill Novack, Tom Miers, Katie Wood, Shannon Kunicki, Mike Panas.

**Remote:** Peggy Frank, Rick Hitchcock, Doug Krieger, Councilman Benny White, Councilman Patrick Kelly, Jeff Wigfield.

Minutes from the July 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to accept by C. Jeffries and seconded by T. Miers. Unanimously approved.

Greg DeGeeter, owner of Dean's, was asked to join the committee. Katie Wood agreed to continue as a citizen representative after her retirement from Director of the DNA.

Rick Hitchcock provided an overview of the history of the organization presented in draft outline. He explained the background of DAC and how it has evolved to where we are today. DAC is to be an organizational leader and advocate to honor the opinion of property owners, businesses, the city and citizens in regard to infrastructure and the hard assets in downtown.

**Website:** NDP staff has created a new website, which creates a new platform of communication for stakeholders and citizens of Naperville. The members were asked to look over the website and if they have any changes or suggestions to forward them to Mike Panas.

#### **The site includes**

Mission statement

Committee members

Agenda and minutes

Current projects for downtown

The 2030 Plan

Meeting dates and times

#### **Business Items:**

**-Washington Street Bridge:** Bill Novack gave us an update as to where the city is at with the Washington Street Bridge improvements project. The city is in the late stages of acquisition phase with active engagement with six of the property owners. The project can not go out to bid unless the acquisition is all sign, sealed and delivered. The city should be able to assess by the second council meeting in January 2022, if the Washington Street bridge project will begin

or if they can move forward with the streetscape project. If the bridge project does move forward in 2022, which is planned for to go on for 18-24, months, then the streetscape project will not take place until 2024.

The DNA board plan to discuss at the October 6, 2021, meeting about going out to bid for the streetscape project. It was mentioned that DAC would be available to facilitate the conversation to help get this process done.

The next steps would be for DAC to facilitate a list of what to prioritize in the Downtown. Then to conduct a walk about in the downtown with public works and see what can be done to maintain the integrity of the streetscape as it is now. The issue was maintenance to streetscape was put on the back burner due to the upcoming streetscape improvement project.

Parking: The downtown 30-minute parking survey closed on September 5. Over 2000 submissions with a lot of comments, a cumulative report will be given to the DNA as to what the next steps are. The 30-minute parking currently expires December 31, 2021. The consensus with the retailers is the 2-hour parking needs to be put back right away. Handicap accessibility is something that needs to be looked at. For example, the Water Street garage has handicap spots in the garage but not laid out logically.

#### **Other Business:**

Steve Rubin and Brien Nagle are going to meet and discuss potential by laws and operating guidelines for the committee.

Christine will send out a Doodle with potential dates for the walk about with DPW in the downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm