



**Downtown Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023**

Present: Steve Rubin, Christine Jeffries, Peggy Frank, Brien Nagle, Bill Novack, Rick Hitchcock, Tom Miers.

Via Zoom: Joe Costello, Patrick Kelly, Katie Wood, Greg DeGeeter, Benny White, Kaylin Risvold, Chief Aries

Staff & Guest: Derek McDaniel, Magna Bansal, Mike Hudson, Officer Colt Parchem, Mikal Mayes, Mike Panas, Shannon Kunicki.

The minutes for the October 16, 2023, meeting was submitted. A motion was made, seconded by Peggy Frank, unanimously approved. Abstention from Rick Hitchcock and Mike Hudson.

Updates:

Police updates: Chief Arres and Downtown Beat Officer Colt Parchem updated the committee on the recent incidents downtown. Due to the Apple store smash and grab the DNA is putting together a list of potential high targeted stores in downtown. Public works has offered to move cement planters that need to be placed outside to help deter in the future. However, we don't want to drop planters everywhere so a quick walkabout was suggested with getting them implemented by end of the week.

Safety & Security: Chief Arres offered the CPED, Crime Prevention Environmental Design, to join the walk around with DAC and DNA. They would assess and recommend locations that could expand on lighting and other safety features in the downtown area.

City Council approved the ordinance for no loitering and in the parking decks. This also allows for signage to be put up and gives the ability to officers to issue tickets.

Workshop Planning: Rick Hitchcock along with a few others, interviewed three potential firms to facilitate a workshop discussion on the culture of the downtown. There was a definite agreement on a particular firm, however her cost was \$10,000 and the budget we have is only \$3000. Tom, Rick and Steve were going to talk with Doug for additional funding. More to come.

Washington St Bridge: Bill Novack gave an update on the bridge, currently trending towards a November 2024 finish date.

Washington StreetScape: The design plan has been revised and reviewed and will go out for bid in the next few weeks.

NCC Parking Deck: New committee member Mike Hudson from NCC gave a brief update on the new 530 space parking deck. They are going to council on November 16 for a variation on the sign ordinance. The construction is moving along. Looking at a potential finish date in late January.

By-Laws: A copy of the By-Laws were sent out to committee members to review. There were many inquiries and will be put back on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cultural Discussion/Century Walk: Discussion on how to maintain public art in the **downtown** whether on public or private property. Current art needs to be maintained prior to any new art is put into place, as well as a maintenance schedule. After discussion, a motion was made by Peggy Frank to draft a letter to City Council that would read: DAC perspective is that public art needs to be properly maintained to ensure the aesthetic to our community and downtown. Tax support for that purpose would be legitimate, regardless if on public or private property. Brien Nagle seconded the motion, unanimously approved, Councilman Kelly, and Councilman White Abstained from the motion. As there is no discussion as of right now, Councilman Kelly suggested that DAC wait to send the recommendation next summer.

Workshop Discussion: Who would be included in the workshop: DAC, DNA, stakeholders, property owners, college, and city staff. The discussion would be what today is and what does the future look like for downtown. Make a list of priorities to dominate our resources, time, and money whether that be data, public opinions. The consultants pointed to a lot of information outside of Naperville trends that would be valuable to be mindful of. Suggestions were made to include high school and college students to have a pre meeting. The result of the study would provide insight, ideas, thoughts, roadmap, to enhance security safety, tenant mix, retail trend, parking.

Walkabouts: Christine, Katie and the Chief are coordinating to identify five or six properties. They would approach property owners to discuss best practices and encourage them to put extra lights and such for security purposes.

Sidewalk Solicitors: Solicitors at street corners, via freedom of speech can talk about their philosophical ideas but cannot run a credit card. By collecting money, in which they are collecting commission, this is beyond the freedom of speech and are blocking the corners therefore we should be able to ask them to leave.

Sound Monitors: The City of Chicago is looking to put up sound monitors on streetlights that will check the decibel levels. This would issue tickets based on the decibel level, the cost of that is having a actual person watching an monitoring this to make sure the correct tickets are issued. The issue for downtown Naperville is the intersection of Main and Jackson is a trouble spot. Another option is to replace the speed bumps once again.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brien Nagle, seconded by Tom Miers, unanimously approved at 5:04pm