



**Downtown Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2025**

Present: Steve Rubin, Monica Conners, Mike Hudson, Bill Novack, Tom Castagnoli, Peggy Frank, Katie Wood, Tom Miers, Doug Krieger.

Via Zoom: Kaylin Risvold

Staff & Guest: Shannon Kunicki, Mike Panas.

The minutes for the March 10, 2025, meeting was submitted. A motion was made to approve by Peggy Frank, seconded by Katie Wood, unanimously approved.

Washington St Bridge: Bill Novack gave a brief update on the Washington St bridge construction. The bridge is coming along and is expected to be finished by 4th of July.

Wayfinding Signs: Katie Wood gave an update on the Wayfinding signs for downtown. Public works will not be fabricated the signs. Hitchcock is continuing working on bids from fabricators.

Outdoor Dining: Bill Novack talked about how the city is in the process of coming up with standards and guidelines for outdoor dining in downtown. Just in the beginning stages, with an informational open house coming up on April 10 & 11.

Century Walk/Naperville Art Forum: Doug Krieger stated that there is very little progress with Century Walk. However, The Naperville Art Forum has applied for their 501C-3 status and is moving forward. They will be independent from the Century Walk and will have a full structure and full board. Any new art to go up in the city will be through the Art Forum. The City has taken the title to all art on City property and has a contract for a maintenance plan.

5th Avenue: City is partnering with the Urban Land Institute to study 5th Ave Station. Their task force is made up of development professionals and offers a best practice approach to help plan for the project. The initial meeting is on Thursday, April 10. They will start in May with onsite work for a few days and conduct interviews and open houses.

NDP Update: Monica gave a quick update. The NDP has spent time on the I-88 corridor and the study done by Aecom a final draft should be done by April. Dine Naperville conducted a restaurant meeting on March 19 included Sam Toya, President of IL Restaurant Assoc., economic

forecast from Wintrust. Sam talked about the Wage tip credit bill that the state is trying to pass. There was a great turnout, and we look forward to having more of these in the future.

DNA: Katie gave a brief update on the happenings downtown. Merchants report it being a little slow this month, slow during the week, and a little bit busier on weekends. New openings coming up Barnes & Noble opening April 23, Avocado Theory in early May, White Sheep in June, and Rosebud reopening this summer Alo, and George's Place in the old Bevs. There was a teen takeover at the Chipotle at River District. The cops were aware of the situation and are continuing to monitor any other meet ups in Naperville.

Projects & Actions:

DAC is creating three sunset committees:

- 1. Parking Deck Security:** Looking for volunteers to sit on the committee. Want to look at the cost and value of have a private security firm to monitor the downtown decks on the weekend, rather than closing them.
- 2. Library Parking Deck:** Chaired by Tom Castagnoli. Looking for members to serve on the committee. They would meet to discuss opportunities for moving forward with putting in a new parking deck at the Nichols library. Would like to have something presented to the city for July 2025 budget meeting for consideration of an additional F&B tax for downtown. A meeting notice will be sent out in the next week to discuss further.
- 3. Statistics Package:** Steve and Monica will meet to discuss and develop a package that is creditable and understand the trends. Included would be sales tax data, demographics, and special events.

Walkabouts: These will be scheduled with DAC members, the police department and members of the CETP. The group will identify any safety concerns, infrastructure issues and anything else that would need improvement. Look for an upcoming 3 evening on a Friday or Saturday from 7-11pm.

Crowd Protection: Steve wants to make sure that we keep supporting the effort of the police department looking into crowd protection for large events throughout the city. More focus needs to be placed on this to prevent what happened in Germany and New Orleans.

Open Discussion: Recommendation that letter to Andy Hynes from DAC in support of taking down the "No Left Turn" at the stop light at Chicago Ave and Ellsworth. Staff will come up with letter.

A letter recognizing Bill Novack's tried and true dedication to DAC in his 33 years at the city was read by P.Frank upon his retirement and cake was served

Next meeting April 7, 2025

Meeting Adjourned at 4:48pm