

Downers Grove Downtown Management Corporation

Board Meeting Notes

August 1, 2019

Present: Phil Stromberg, Paul Glover, Kathy Burns, Steve Frost, Larry Boik, Maureen Grand, Bill Marshall, Mike Baker, Michael Philipp, Nan Newlon, Michael Cassa, Laura Crawford, Erin Venezia, Ann Hattan

Absent: Jill Card

Guests: Dave Nicholson, Gay Crossman, Marilyn Crossman, Allen Armstrong, Jack Marengo, Steve Mulligan

Chairman's Report: Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. A motion to approve the June 1, 2019, minutes was made, seconded and passed. Phil reported that 95% of people are positive about the downtown area.

Downtown Management Report: New businesses: Windy City Music (opening August 6th), Wasabi Steak House (opening in August), Kerwell Premium CBD, MAR Health & Performance and The Foxtail (opening in November). The garbage enclosure continues to be going well. The sidewalk sale was a success. Friday night car show runs until August 30th. Upcoming events: Fine Arts Festival (September 7-8) and Girls' Day Out (September 26th). Coupon book will be going out soon. Non-profit organizations can purchase banners for the downtown area and have them up for several weeks. New events: progressive dinner with proceeds going to the BJ Boyd fund and a progressive art walk. There was a question asking if the events are successful and if not, *should* we continue with them. Michael Cassa stated that having events in the downtown area help the businesses. It draws people to the downtown area and it makes for a vibrant downtown.

Deputy Village Manager Report: We received 1,400 of the parking surveys returned. More details on the parking study in September. The Council long range plans are scheduled for the August 6th meeting. The budget will be released in late October. Mike discussed the SSA that is set to expire December, 2020. By the third quarter of 2020, the final plan will be adopted – including proposed SSA renewal and revised operating agreement. There was a questions as to if the boundaries will be changed. Also, a question regarding the minimum number of years for a SSA. Mike is unsure and will check on that. One resident stated that if this is a benefit to the residents, make it a plan for ten years, so it doesn't have to be redone every few years.

Director of Public Works Report: General maintenance is being done in the downtown area. Forest/Warren project is in the works. The Village received a state grant for \$100,000 for the downtown corners. Power washing will be done in the parking deck.

Village Commissioner Report: No report.

Economic Development Report: Michael thanked Downtown Management for purchasing a table at their luncheon. ICSS was in October and we handed out packets which included information on the downtown area. We will be hosting "Deals are Brewing in Downers Grove" an annual event at Alter Brewing with brokers and developers. DGEDC is an entertainment sponsor at the Fine Arts Festival. Strategic planning starting in the fall with a roll out of April, 2020.

Chamber630 Report: New incoming Board; slate approved. Publication will be coming out soon. We currently have 220 events per year, but will be cutting them in half next year. Upcoming events: Women in business meeting tomorrow. In August, 60th anniversary of Woodridge with sample Seven Bridges event on August 8th. Best of 630 at the DoubleTree on August 28th. In September, we will have our Last Swing golf outing and Taste of 630.

Aesthetics Committee Report: Last month we met with the landscape company and walked around the downtown area.

Finance Report: No report.

Governance Committee Report: No report.

Communications Committee Report: Discussed ways to have downtown residents shop and dine in the downtown area. Coupon book will be sent to all residents in Downers Grove.

Other Business: Discussion on GroveFest. One business stated they lost 15% of sales, parking is taken away, there is dumping in the downtown. Would like to see what other businesses think. Survey was sent out to all of the businesses in town and it was a 50/50 split. Other comments: signs in planters – no class, can it be moved to the north of the tracks, residents are also split 50/50 – some like it and some do not. Rotary is the top non-profit in Downers Grove and they have over 500 volunteers for the weekend. Would like someone from Rotary to come to an upcoming meeting. Public comment: There was a concern about the need for additional overnight parking. A new resident moved into downtown and needs a second spot for a person who cares for her Mom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

The next Board Meeting will be October 3, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hattan