

## **Downers Grove Downtown Management Corporation**

### **Board Meeting Notes**

November 7, 2019

**Present:** Phil Stromberg, Paul Glover, Kathy Burns, Larry Boik, Bill Marshall, Mike Baker, Michael Cassa, Maureen Grand, Steve Frost, Theresa Schulz, Erin Venezia, Ann Hattan

**Absent:** Laura Crawford, Nan Newlon, Michael Philipp

**Guests:** Lisa Rasin, Gay Crossman, Marilyn Crossman, Allen Armstrong, Steve Slomski, Pat Driscoll, Stephen Jagielo, Pete Foernsler, Robin Lang, Marsha Gats, Joe Spokas

**Chairman's Report:** Meeting called to order at 8:03 a.m. A motion to approve the October 3, 2019, minutes was made, seconded and passed. Phil introduced Lisa Rasin from the Downers Grove Rotary.

Lisa Rasin gave an overview of the Rotary Club and Rotary GroveFest. She said there are over 500 volunteers for GroveFest and they work closely with the Village and Downtown Management. \$20,000 was donated to non-profit organizations from the volunteers that donated their time. There was a concern as to why the fest is held in the downtown area. Residents are 50/50 on the fest. Some residents are concerned about the noise and trash left after the fest is gone. One resident also noted that they are not happy with the holiday decorations being put up in the middle of the night. Residents and businesses would like to meet with Rotary to discuss issues. Lisa stated that the Rotary Club would be happy to meet with them.

Phil reminded the Board members that the decisions made by this Board are advisory only. The commercial property meeting was held and 14 commercial property owners were in attendance. The three options were presented. One resident stated that they didn't want to be part of the SSA, one commercial property owner was against the SSA and wants to be out, but a majority of the commercial property owners wanted option 3. Phil thanked Erin for all of her hard work on the process.

There was a motion to adopt option 3 with the DMC exclusively funded by the approved annual budget with a SSA cap of 1% for no more than ten years, seconded and passed. If this is passed by the Village, the by-laws and operating agreement with the Village needs to be updated. The proposal will come before the Village Council on November 19<sup>th</sup>. As the process is moved along, the Village will communicate with DMC and DMC will be in touch with residents and businesses.

**Downtown Management Report:** Halloween window painting was a success and several businesses said they passed out 1,500 pieces of candy during trick or treating. During Girls' Day Out \$23,000 was spent. Two schools received extra money for being the top two schools with attendees. The Gingerbread Festival is the weekend after Thanksgiving. Among some of the events that weekend are story-time with the gingerbread man, gingerbread man hunt, complimentary carriage rides, breakfast with Santa and Small Business Saturday. The businesses put together a Passport to Savings booklet for the residents in the SSA and it should be available soon. The Ice Festival is scheduled for February 7-9, 2020. Curtiss Street shopping with specials today. The Downers Grove Historical Society is hosting a pub crawl on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Dazzling Divas has opened on Main Street. It is a spa salon for kids and they also do parties. Berkshire Hathaway ribbon cutting

is on November 12<sup>th</sup>. New businesses opening soon include Sweet Jane, Wasabi and Foxtail. 5207 Main (Subway building) sold, more details coming soon. The Northeast corner of Warren and Washington has received approval from the plan commission. If you need salt this coming season, please let us know.

**Deputy Village Manager Report:** Mike thanked everyone who participated in meetings regarding the SSA. The noise ordinance will be addressed at the next meeting. The Village is currently in the budget process. Levy has not been approved for 2020 yet. The parking study should be released in December.

**Director of Public Works:** No report.

**Village Commissioner:** No report.

**Economic Development Report:** Broker's reception was held at Alter and Capri did the catering. The EDC receives five complimentary Dupage Convention and Visitors Bureau memberships and one is given to DMC. EDC exhibited at the ICSC show at Navy Pier where we passed out information on Downers Grove and also information on the downtown. The Marriott has a new general manager. The DoubleTree is working on renovations and they will be renovating all of the rooms. New restaurant opened in the lobby as well as Starbucks.

**Chamber630 Report:** No report.

**Aesthetics Committee Report:** We do not have time to do the pots around town for the holiday season. We would like the landscaping designer to come to the next meeting and discuss the landscaping options. Paul will coordinate and would like to have Nan and Castina come to the meeting.

**Finance:** No report.

**Governance Committee Report:** No report.

**Other Business:** Kathy made a motion for an executive session at the end of this meeting, seconded and approved. Public comment: There was a concern about the large number of people during events in the downtown area and it was suggested that police patrol in the downtown area should be part of the process.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

The next Board Meeting will be December 5, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hattan