

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2024**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Friday, February 23, 2024 in room A213 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. with Dave Johnson, Darren Peterson, and Aaron Smith present. Megan Wiles was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Deputy Clerk Ilga Pruzinskis, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head, Engineering Project Manager Andrew Rodewald, Community Relations Manager Lexie Rock, Nickel Plate Arts Executive Director Ailithir McGill, and Noblesville Main Street Executive Director Kate Baker.

Committee Purpose and Overview

Mr. Smith stated the committee focuses on Downtown, but updates on the City's parks will be incorporated at some point in the year. He stated the Downtown Development Fund receives \$500,000.00 each year to spend on Downtown enhancements. He stated the committee makes spending recommendations to the full Council. He stated \$75,000.00 of the amount is set aside for small projects and purchases to be made at Mr. Head's discretion. Mr. Head stated this year he plans to purchase new trash cans and new coverings for the tables in the alleys. Mr. Smith stated none of the Downtown funding will be used for the parks, since they have separate funding. He stated the Parks and Recreation Department will provide updates to the committee.

Mr. Smith stated Main Street's Design Committee will be integrated into this committee as well, since both committees have common goals. He stated other communities have design committees because they don't have a committee like this one.

Funding

Mr. Head stated the \$500,000.00 deposited into the Downtown Development Fund is not deposited in total on January 1. He stated the amount comes from Food and Beverage Tax revenue received from the State periodically throughout the year. He stated unspent balances from prior years remain in the fund as well, so there is a reserve balance available for projects. He stated some pending projects are black street name signs and the Streetscape project. He stated previous projects include changing streetlight poles and other fixtures to black; installing decorative crosswalks; purchase of Christmas lights and decorations; and contributing financially to the reconstruction of Seminary Park.

Three Four-way Flashers Project

Mr. Rodewald stated the signal poles at 9th Street and Maple Avenue and 10th and Hannibal Streets have been installed. He stated Duke needs to schedule a time to switch the power from the old signals to the new ones. He stated once that is scheduled, the poles at 10th and Clinton Streets will be installed when the power is switched, since they will be installed in the same

location as the old poles. He stated a change order for approximately \$5,000.00 will be added to the project at 10th and Hannibal Streets to bury nearby overhead power lines. He stated a neighbor who has been very vocal about the project will not be directly affected. He stated the directly affected neighbor approves of the project as long as the City provides funding. He stated he expects the project to be completed before the next committee meeting.

Decorative Crosswalks

Mr. Rodewald stated the current decorative crosswalks are at 8th Street and Maple Avenue and 9th Street and Maple Avenue. He stated the material used is the same as for street center lines. He stated the asphalt must be one year old or less to install the material. He stated the material is durable and expected to last approximately ten years. He stated Downtown streets generally are resurfaced every ten years. Mr. Johnson expressed approval. He stated after ten years, it may be time for different designs. Mr. Rodewald stated only one company installs the crosswalks, and they are very good to work with. He stated this year decorative crosswalks are planned for the intersection of 10th and Hannibal Streets near Seminary Park. He displayed two preliminary designs with peony themes. He stated he hopes to have the crosswalks installed prior to the Indiana Peony Festival at Seminary Park in May, but there is a small window to complete the work. He stated the contractor is not optimistic that it can be completed in time, but he has not ruled it out and plans to try. Mr. Johnson stated if the crosswalks are not completed in time for this year's festival, signs could be displayed promoting them as a coming attraction. Mr. Smith asked how well the designs fare with heavy foot traffic. Mr. Rodewald replied lighter colors show dirt more than darker colors. Ms. McGill stated the artist is not yet under contract for the designs. Mr. Peterson stated the contract needs to be approved so the project can move forward. The committee approved both designs. Ms. McGill recommended \$1,500.00 for the design contract. She stated the artist lives next to the park and walks in it often. The committee agreed to the amount. Mr. Peterson asked if a decorative crosswalk could be installed at 10th and Division Streets, at the other end of the park. He stated the same peony designs could be used. Mr. Rodewald stated Hannibal and Division Streets are being paved this year, so there will be a year to install the crosswalks. He stated if the crosswalks are not installed in time for the Peony Festival, they will most likely be installed in the fall. Mr. Head asked to increase the design contract to \$2,000.00 if another intersection is added. The committee agreed to the change. Ms. McGill stated she will follow up with the artist. Mr. Rodewald stated he will need funding to pay for the crosswalks.

Mr. Smith stated he would like to see decorative crosswalks on the new trail from Federal Hill Commons to Forest Park that will be constructed this summer. Mr. Rodewald replied parts of the trail may be concrete instead of asphalt, but there are still available options. He stated he will evaluate the possibility. He stated the project for the trail is out for bid, but the crosswalks could be added as a change order. The committee agreed the theme of the crosswalks should be related to food, specifically the Farmers Market. Mr. Rodewald stated he will obtain pricing.

Mr. Smith stated the committee needs to decide on the boundaries of the Downtown District. He stated the boundaries would be the natural locations for more decorative crosswalks. He stated he

would prefer a five-year plan so that the crosswalks could be programmed for design and installation.

Streetscape Project

Mr. Rodewald stated the project is in the design phase. Mr. Head stated he is engaging the business owners. He stated when the project was first proposed in 2020, many business owners were afraid, because change is difficult. He stated since then, there are several new business owners, and they are anxious for the project to begin. He stated they want more outdoor seating and a park-like atmosphere. He stated now that the parking garages are built, there is not as much concern about losing parking spaces. He stated other communities have faced pushback with similar projects, but once the project is complete, the community embraces it. He stated many business owners are excited about the project. Ms. Baker stated many of the business owners want to know the timeline of the project so they can prepare for it.

Mr. Rodewald displayed a map of the proposed project, which is Logan Street from 10th Street to the bridge over White River, and 8th and 9th Streets from Logan Street to Conner Street. He stated a sewer separation project was added to the project, so there will be a bigger construction footprint than originally planned. He stated the water line is approximately 100 years old and may need to be replaced as well. He stated the work will be difficult, but it will modernize the underground structures. He stated the work will lengthen the timeline for the project. He stated the busy season for retail businesses is the same time as construction season, so it may be best to complete the work in phases over two seasons. He stated scoping for the project will begin soon. Mr. Peterson requested extending the project on 8th and 9th Streets south to Maple Avenue. He stated it will be important to contact Hamilton County to see if there are any parts of their property that they prefer to remain unchanged by the project. Mr. Rodewald stated the timeline for the project is yet to be determined, but it will not begin until after 2025. Mr. Light stated the project will most likely be locally funded. Mr. Smith asked when the updated scope will be ready. Mr. Rodewald stated some surveying and other work needs to be redone due to changes since the original study, so it may be a few months before it is ready. He stated the original scoping was in 2020, and prices have increased approximately 25 percent since then. Mr. Smith stated it is important to do the project right and be bold, since it will be a 75-year project.

There was a discussion concerning possible improvements to the alley behind the businesses on 9th Street between Logan and Conner Streets.

Parks Update

Mr. Light stated the Parks and Recreation Department is in transition to new leadership right now, but staff is moving forward and offering good ideas. He stated the Father Daughter Princess Ball is coming soon; there will be an eclipse event; and spring break camps are planned.

Ms. Johnson stated a large hackberry tree at Federal Hill Commons was found to be rotting inside to the point where it was unsafe. She stated the tree is being removed.

Mr. Light stated he is currently the contact for questions regarding parks. He stated there is interest from candidates for the director and assistant director positions.

Other Business

Mr. Smith stated at the next meeting, boundaries for the Downtown District will be discussed.

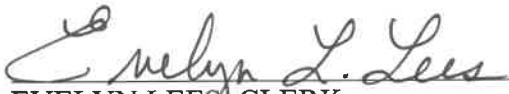
Mr. Peterson moved to authorize the chair to approve the meeting minutes, second Mr. Johnson, three aye, motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



AARON SMITH, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN LEES, CLERK
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE