

**COMMON COUNCIL  
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MAY 31, 2024**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Friday, May 31, 2024 in room A213 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. with Dave Johnson, Darren Peterson, Aaron Smith, and Megan Wiles present.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director Savannah Solgere, Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head, Community Relations Manager Lexie Rock, Engineering Project Manager Andrew Rodewald, Mayor's Office Intern and Advisory Council on Disabilities member Reece Bowen, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bob DuBois, Serve Noblesville Executive Director Patrick Probst, Noblesville Creates Executive Director Ailithir McGill, Noblesville Main Street Executive Director Kate Baker, Noblesville Main Street Board President Chris Theisen. Community Development Director Sarah Reed arrived at 9:09 a.m.

Ms. Baker, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Probst, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Theisen also serve on Noblesville Main Street's Design Committee. This meeting was considered an official meeting of that committee for Noblesville Main Street's purposes.

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Wiles are also members of the Council Finance Committee, but no items pertaining to that committee were on the agenda or discussed, and they did not attend this meeting in their capacity as members of the other committee.

1) Savannah Solgere Introduction

Those in attendance were introduced. Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Solgere, the new Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Solgere stated today is her ninth day, and she is excited to work with everyone.

2) Parks Capital Improvements Updates

Mr. Smith stated this is the eighth year for this committee, and Parks are being added to its oversight. Mr. Light stated capital improvements are planned at two parks. He stated Finch Creek Park is preparing for Phase II activation, and a part of the project will be renovating an existing farmhouse at the north edge of the property to be the Indiana Peony Festival headquarters. He stated Context Design has been engaged to work on the activation. He stated Card & Associates has an option to purchase ten acres next to the fieldhouse, and staff are working through the details of the transaction. He stated on the west side of the City, the Janus miniature golf and batting facility will be improved in partnership with Hamilton County and BeeFree Gluten Free Bakery. He stated the property has been appraised, and the appraisal is within the budget to build a dog park, trail head, and a café that would employ Janus clients. He stated an announcement is expected by the end of June. He stated a housing component may also be included. He stated Janus is speaking with Real America to build apartments, of which 25 percent would be available for disabled tenants. Mr. Smith expressed approval of both projects.

Mr. Smith stated locating the Peony Festival headquarters in Wayne Township will help tie the area to Downtown.

Ms. Reed joined the meeting.

### 3) Hard Hat Resiliency Grant Update

Mr. Smith commended Mr. Light, Mr. Head, and Ms. Rock for their work with the grant process. He stated the grants boosted businesses and provided exposure to Downtown in the press. Ms. Reed stated paving is beginning on Conner Street today. Mr. Peterson stated Reconstructing SR 32 Phase II will reopen on June 11 at midnight. Mr. Johnson stated there has been positive feedback from businesses. Mr. Smith stated the grants were an example to other communities of what they can do when a large state project is in their community. He stated the grant checks were delivered the day before the Peony Festival. Mr. Head stated he will apply to the Office of Finance and Accounting for a budget modification to reimburse the budget. Mr. Theissen asked if the grants were all spent, and if there will be another round of grants. Mr. Smith stated another round of grants would wait until after the road reopens, but the grants have been successful.

### 4) Four-way Flasher Signals – Final Completion Update

Mr. Rodewald stated the foundations for the old signal poles are being removed, and grass seed is being planted. He stated street signs will be installed once special brackets for fastening the signs to the poles are delivered.

### 5) Seminary Park Crosswalk Update

Mr. Rodewald stated he needs digital design files for the crosswalks to send to the supplier. Ms. McGill stated she sent the files to Mr. Head. Mr. Rodewald stated there is an eight-week lead time for the project. He stated most likely 10<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed at Pleasant Street during installation, but if not, half of the crosswalk will be installed at a time. He stated he believed funding has been transferred. He displayed the two peony designs. He stated two crosswalks will be installed at 10<sup>th</sup> and Division Streets, and four crosswalks will be installed at 10<sup>th</sup> and Hannibal Streets.

### 6) State Road 32 Reconstruction Project Update

Mr. Rodewald stated when the project moves from Phase II to Phase III overnight on June 11, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets will reopen across Conner Street, and the intersection with 8<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed. He stated 6<sup>th</sup> Street will remain open, but it may temporarily be one way southbound as a traffic control measure. He stated Maple Avenue may temporarily be one way eastbound as well. He stated truck traffic will be unavoidable, so they will try to accommodate them. He stated staff will work with INDOT regarding signs. Ms. Wiles asked if Logan Street would be considered the westbound detour. Mr. Rodewald replied yes, it will be. He stated staff will install barricades to help direct traffic. He stated construction traffic at East Bank will need to be able to enter and leave that site. Mr. Smith asked if they would be able to park in the East Bank parking garage.

Ms. Reed replied they will be able to park in a portion of the garage. She stated staff are working with Public Safety to find a solution.

Mr. Rodewald stated Phase III will overlap the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and open on July 15. He stated the contractor will try to finish before July 15 if possible. He stated while the road will reopen on July 15, there will still be resurfacing work and installation of decorative signal poles for an additional month. He stated the project will not be complete until mid-August.

Ms. Baker stated the Street Dance is scheduled for July 20, and a July 15 opening date is too close for comfort. After a brief discussion of possible options, Ms. Baker agreed to reserve Federal Hill Commons for the date of the Street Dance in case Conner Street is not reopened by then.

#### 7) Pleasant Street Project Update

Mr. Rodewald stated when Phase III begins, 10<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed at Pleasant Street to build a roundabout. He stated traffic is being directed to 8<sup>th</sup> Street now, but then it will be directed to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated 10<sup>th</sup> and Pleasant Streets will be closed from approximately July 15 until mid-October. He stated 9<sup>th</sup> Street will remain closed at Pleasant Street.

#### 8) Federal Hill/Forest Park Trail

Mr. Rodewald stated the trail project has been combined with a drainage project. He stated the drainage work is scheduled to begin on June 10 and will be the bulk of the project. He stated the contractor will access the park from the north but will build the trail from south to north. He stated the train tracks most likely will not be crossed until after Labor Day. He stated he will work with the Nickel Plate Express regarding their rail bike program when the tracks will need to close. He stated some preparation work will occur on the trail, but most work will be done after Labor Day. He stated the project should be completed by November 1. He stated he expects construction of the tunnel under the railroad tracks to last one month. He stated he is still working with Kroger for an easement near the trail.

Mr. Rodewald stated the decorative crosswalks for Logan Street need to be designed. He stated he will obtain pricing, but he estimated the cost to be approximately \$40,000.00. Mr. Peterson moved to approve \$50,000.00 for decorative crosswalk designs on Logan Street at Federal Hill, second Ms. Wiles, four aye, motion carried. Mr. Rodewald stated he will need the first draft of the designs in one month, and final approval will be needed by August 1. Mr. Smith stated if more funding is needed, it will be provided.

#### 9) Downtown Projects Updates

##### a. Lofts on Tenth

There was no update on the project.

b. East Bank

Ms. Reed stated an update will be provided at a later date. She stated Development Services Manager Joyceann Yelton is working with the developers on parking.

c. Federal Hill

Ms. Reed stated the Federal Hill apartments should be finished in late July or early August. She stated the Farmers Market is working well. She stated she will debrief the season with the Parks Department after it finishes. She stated there may be a few issues to correct, for which funding will be requested in the 2025 budget.

Mr. Smith stated the activation lot took a lot of people working quickly to meet a deadline. Ms. Reed stated she will work to provide better signs for the public restrooms. Mr. Theisen stated many visitors don't know that the parking and restrooms are open to the public. Ms. Baker expressed confidence that visitors will learn where they are. Ms. Reed stated it will be easier to navigate the property once construction has finished.

Mr. Smith stated the activation lot is a great asset. He stated an Indiana Main Street official came to the Farmers Market recently. He asked Ms. Baker for her reaction. Ms. Baker replied she loved everything and gave the Farmers Market high praise.

There was a discussion concerning upcoming street closures for the Village at Federal Hill project. Press Secretary Robert Herrington will announce the closures.

10) Downtown District Boundary Creation

Mr. Smith stated he will poll committee members for their preferences before the next meeting so that they can be discussed. Ms. Reed stated she will send maps of the seven current boundaries of various districts to Mr. Smith. Ms. McGill asked if the boundaries should be current or what they will be in five years. Mr. Smith stated his goal is to create Downtown District boundaries this year.

Other Business

Mr. Rodewald stated during the meeting he received an email changing the date of the transition from Phase II to Phase III of the State Road 32 project from June 11 to June 14, three days later. There was a discussion of the change and how it could affect various Downtown events.

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.



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AARON SMITH, COMMITTEE CHAIR



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EVELYN LEES, CLERK  
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE