

MINUTES

COUNCIL DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 4:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member
Geraldine Dinkins, Vice Chair, Council Member
Billy Parrish, Heart of Brevard Representative (via Zoom)
Nicole Bentley, Heart of Brevard Executive Director (via Zoom)
Lee McMinn, Citizen Member
Parker Platt, Council Appointed At-Large Member

Staff Present: Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk
Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator

Guests: Monica Driscoll, Resident

Media: Jon Rich, *Transylvania Times*

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Gary Daniel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Bentley, seconded by Ms. Dinkins to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Mr. McMinn, seconded by Ms. Dinkins to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Main Street Streetscape Update

Mr. Hooper reported that Council held a special meeting on Monday, March 6th and approved the low bid from Sossamon Construction Company, Inc. for \$1.7M. He expects that the contract will be signed tomorrow. A pre-construction meeting will be held on Monday and at that time we should have the preliminary schedule for construction and when the disruption will start. Becky McCann and Ms. Bentley will be involved in that so they can keep all of our downtown constituents well informed on the status of the project and when they can expect to see the work commence.

Mr. Hooper noted that because the project cost came in higher than we were originally expecting, we had to find some extra money. Fortunately our sales tax collections and the income on our investments were much higher than we had projected at the beginning of the fiscal year and those two sources made up the bulk of the additional funds. Mr. Hooper has made a request to TDA for funding support in the amount of \$125,000 and they have given a favorable preliminary response. TDA wants their contribution to go toward something, so right now the plan is to use their contribution for the trees and landscaping. TDA has indicated that they may be willing to contribute up to 10% of the project cost, or \$175,000. Mr. Daniel noted that the bid has no contingency fee so if TDA can bump up their contribution, it would be very helpful. He added that funding for this project is difficult and is costing considerably more than we had thought. He said future funding is also going to be difficult, but we are on the path to begin.

F. Update re Clemson Plaza/Public Art Subcommittee

Ms. Bentley reported that the subcommittee has had two meetings and is made up of HOB representatives, Transylvania County Community Arts Council representatives, local artists, Mary C. Jenkins representatives, and City representatives. The subcommittee reviewed the history of what had originally been recommended for public art in Clemson Plaza seven years ago in the initial plans by Destination by Design. All agreed that there is a historical component there with a story that needs to be told that is difficult but important, and that we would like to somehow tie that to the history of the cinema as well.

Ms. Bentley had three questions for the committee: 1) whether there is a timeline that we would like the subcommittee to work within in terms of identifying what we might like to see there; 2) is this committee prepared to move forward with an open call to artists that would include funding for folks who are pitching their ideas to us; and 3) is the subcommittee reviewing those and making our recommendations here or does this committee want to review them and make recommendations to Council?

Ms. Bentley explained that with a call to artists it is customary and best practice that each artist who submits a proposal is given a small stipend of around \$300 for their work and ideas and we need to determine if we are open to funding that. Mr. Daniel thought it was premature to ask for funding before Council has set the budget for the

year. Mr. Hooper said we can't give an answer today, but we can by the end of May or beginning of June. By that time the subcommittee will have presumably made some progress on establishing the vision and what the content of the art should be.

Mr. Hooper said he believes that the product of the subcommittee work should be the vision of what goes in the plaza, maybe even some detailed recommendations on the content. Then we would have a plan that we can use to either seek grants, seek interested artists who are willing to give us in-kind work, or buy some art if we have the funding. There was consensus that the subcommittee should review applications and make recommendation to the Downtown Master Plan Committee. Ms. Bentley will present on the process and next steps at this committee's May meeting.

G. Review of Committee Member Applications


Mr. Hooper noted that there are two seats to fill and we have only received one application to date. He recommended that we readvertise and keep the application period open for another month.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council Downtown Master Plan Committee was scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

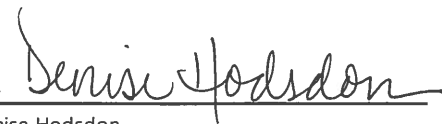
I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

X 

Gary Daniel
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved - May 8, 2023

X 

Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk