

Downtown Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 6pm-8pm
Central Library of Des Moines, Meeting Room 3

In attendance: Deb Madison-Levi, president; Luke Iffland, vice president; Julie Feirer, David Jennings, Christine Comito, secretary; Jon Cahill, Doug Selsor, treasurer [absent: Jordan Locke]
13 community members

Deb called the meeting to order at 6pm and introduced Angie Arthur, Executive Director Homeward

Community Presentations

Angie: Homeward is the planning organization for homelessness of Polk County. They partner with community and government. Goal: everyone in Polk county has a safe place to call home. Work with federal funds. Working within community to create strategy to best use limited resources, including advocacy.

Angie shared Community based continuum of care overview, what are the resources available in our community. Some dollars no longer available. Evictions becoming bigger problem recently. Need for safe and affordable accessible housing.

Extremely low income in Iowa: approx 200,000 people, only 26 units available in Des Moines.

One third seniors, one third working, 21% disabled, 4% in school, 1% single caregivers, 8% other. Book recommendation: Homelessness is a Housing Issue

Appropriate level of resources can make a big difference. For example, veterans' homelessness has decreased by more than 50%.

Housing First model is an evidence-based best practice. Community and racial equity are also important.

Reports available on Homewardiowa.org

Data from 2022 unsheltered housing study, 141 of 143 answered yes to the question "do you want to be housed?"

Peter Chalik, Fat Putter (company based in Omaha), mini golf establishment going into first floor of Wilkins building, 713 Walnut St. All ages during day, will likely be open 10-10. No food, just alcohol. Three 9-hole courses. Expected opening fall 2024. Would love to offer a discount to DNA members.

Standing Reports

June Minutes– David moved, Luke 2nd, all approved

Treasurer's Report – Doug – shared draft report, board will review and vote via email

Membership Report– Luke – recent uptick in new members, currently 153. Full Court Press joined. Luke working with Orchestrate and Court Ave Brewing to join.

Socials

Tuesday Aug 6, 6-8 pm– National Night Out at EMC Pocket Park, 7th & Walnut. There will be music, food, games. Restaurants at Local Bites will likely bring some tasting food. Also people are invited to stop in at the Grubb Y, who will be hosting their last National Night Out.

Wednesday, Aug 7 – Iowa State Fair parade. Join us at Lot 12, northeast of the Capitol Building (between Grand & Des Moines Sts and E12th & E13th) between 5-6pm, start walking at 6:15.

Thursday, Aug 22, 5-7pm – location TBA, downtown learn about parks & rec, polk county conservation (trails), ICON water trails

Friday, Aug 30, 8am – Traveling Coffee Hour (4th Friday of the month) with DNA members, St Kilda, 5th St

Wednesday, Sept 4, 6pm, Downtown Library – DNA meeting

September is Library card sign up month. DNA will help promote

Business Items

Polk County Betterment Grant Update – Christine – received \$3000, will pay for DNA banners on Locust Ave bridge and NNO costs

Des Moines Downtown Chamber membership, Julie shared benefits, Luke moved, Doug 2nd, all approved.

Committees

Marketing & Communications Committee – Julie – making changes to attain full control of all our own social media accounts, website, email, etc.. Luke – discussion on potential new logo design, gain insight on what the DNA currently represents

Social & Learn at The Hubspot, budget \$300 food & drink, moved and approved.

Need for speaker system, \$160 approx cost, moved & approved

Parks & Rec offering Zumba at the Brenton Skating Plaza on Sundays at 10 am, register on Parks & Rec website, \$5

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm