

Downtown Neighborhood Association
Des Moines Public Library
November 6, 2024

In attendance: Luke Ifland (vice president), Doug Selsor (treasurer), Jordan Locke, David Jennings, Julie Feirer, Jon Cahill, Christine Comito (secretary)
Absent: Deb Madison-Levi
9 community members

Sgt McKinney update: cases & incidents down, arrests up. Partly because of skywalk and problems at Cowles Commons (loitering, drinking, drug sales). Ricochet has had some problems with unhoused visitors. Weather is changing so a lot of problems will move into skywalk. Vice & narcotics involved as needed. Will come up with a new plan for spring 25. New director at Youth Shelter, less welcoming so as not to encourage long term stays. Sgt McKinney says to call the police (515-283-4811 nonemergency) whenever any issues arise, so at least trip will be made to investigate and also keep track of complaints.

Audience questions: skywalks will likely continue overnight closure periods; Sgt not sure if new porta-potties will be moved into skywalk for winter; new homeless ordinance not yet enforced, still working out details. New captain starts next month.

Chad Bentzinger, leader of Skywalk Assn, will attend next DNA meeting.

Nick Tarpey, DSM Economic Development Office, presentation

New focus on small business initiatives—offers services helping businesses navigate city departments, interface with chambers/other community partners, does not review plan permit applications or give recommendations for consultants

Provide financial assistance for renovation and upgrade of commercial office and mixed use properties, reimbursement reward, generally for permit-required work. This year \$300K has been allocated to programs, under \$50k awarded by city manager, over \$50k needs city council approval.

New for 2024-25 Small Business Impact Loan program – dsm.city/impactloan – e.g., start up costs, food truck looking for brick and mortar space, etc. Small loans, \$5,000-20,000, repayment 3-5 years, interest 2 points lower than prime. Need a project such as building renovations, real estate acquisition, etc. Some businesses are not eligible like liquor/tobacco store, gas station, chain store, religious, home-based business, mobile business etc.

Application process helps businesses get more organized and prepared to be in business.

Timeline: Jan 2025 pre-qualification period, Feb 28 due date, March review, notification late March.

Impact loan available downtown, commercial renovation not available downtown

Old Business

Spaghetti Works conditional use permit as a bar was denied. This is tied to the location not the requestor, so it cannot become a bar for a year from that meeting.

Update on SW 7th St traffic calming study request has been formally submitted—Edison building is close to road and has been hit. David Jennings took the lead. Said SW 7th is considered a main artery, therefore not eligible for traffic study.

New Business

Elizabeth Mansfield suggested a DNA committee to focus on Court Ave

Minutes: Jordan moved, David second, all approved

Treasurer's report: Doug—Sept \$7000 in checking, \$1000 in savings, Took in \$200 in membership, Spent \$300 on insurance.

Membership report: Luke: 172 memberships currently. Facebook ad brought in a few memberships. Adding more businesses. Mainframe Studios (Building) most recent business add. Surety Hotel about to join, possible discount to DNA members. Gateway church joined. Tupelo Honey offering members \$10 off \$30 spend. Dispensary on 4th street is opening a pizza place, Zaza's, in the old Java Joe's space. Hope to have them as a member also. Trying to spread out businesses joining, so that members can learn and enjoy promotions.

City grant applications – one for capacity building (everyday costs) and one for innovation (social and learn events). Luke working on both

Social report: Jon: taking a break from Social and Learn over the holiday season.

Upcoming events: Tuesday Together, Nov 19, at Buzzard Billy's

Dec 6, Mainframe Studios social event among DNA, will try to coordinate people into small groups

Dec 10, Tuesday Together at Tupelo Honey, holiday party

Annual Meeting tentatively set for January 29, at Surety Hotel

Board elections, year in review, social, speaker, building tour

Anyone interested in serving on the board is invited to get information and apply/self nominate.

Teaser: HyVee Hall name change?

Adjourn at 6:56pm.