

Downtown Neighborhood Association
Des Moines Public Library
December 4, 2024

In attendance: Deb Madison-Levi, Luke Ifland (vice president), Doug Selsor (treasurer), David Jennings, Julie Feirer, Christine Comito (secretary)
Absent: Jordan Locke, Jon Cahill
Sgt McKinney, Capt Bagby, Mayor Boesen
5 community members

Sgt McKinney update: Skywalk officers moved in. Calls for service down a bit from last month, to 150 trips, arrests up by 4. Numbers fluctuate with the weather. Elsie Mason Manor shooting last week was difficult for everyone involved. Sgt McKinney is planning to attend this month's Coffee with a Cop there at Elsie Mason Manor (Dec 16 at 9am). Monday was busy with snowy accidents. Surety Hotel manager noted more unhoused visitors coming into the hotel with the cold weather; Sgt McKinney assured her to call for police help, especially after hours when foot patrol is off.

Chad Bentzinger, Skywalk Association update: Police in the skywalks have helped decrease the number of incidents there. Skywalk is 4.2 miles of bridges and corridors from Court Ave to Western Gateway up to Events Center. City responsible for HVAC and exterior components. Private owners responsible for everything else, including lights, etc. Skywalk Committee establishes policy and approves design for signage, approves hours of operation. Skywalk Assn responsible for security and surveillance, governed by Board of Directors, including 2 appointed by City and 1 by Polk County. Wayfinding maps expected to be functional by end of Q1, this should have live updates on construction etc.

Captain Kirk Bagby, DMPD: Regarding downtown efforts. Traffic and Noise Enforcement Squad (Loop Scoop monitoring) received a lot of positive feedback. 5271 citations written, 1088 warnings, arrested 253. Hope that infractions will not creep back up, but will be addressed as necessary. Community members present indicated their appreciation. Foot Patrol, not ending as we head into cold weather, but is complaint driven, directed to where most problems are occurring. Two officers in morning 7-11, 2 officers at night 2-6, seven days a week (one officer on weekends). Foot Patrol started in Jan, 182 arrests to date, averaging 12 contacts with citizens per shift per officer. Not meant to be punitive, but a positive influence. In addition, Skywalk Assn pays for private security— 2 people around the clock. Per Mar security telephone 563-549-2438. Contact Sgt McKinney if you see places where foot patrol should focus. Homeless Outreach Officer position created to centralize intake for department to focus on these issues instead of neighborhood officers having to take on these issues. Camping ordinance program still in progress. Goal of voluntary compliance with enforcement as needed.

Business

Approval of November minutes— Luke moved, Julie 2nd, all approved

Treasurer's report, Oct & Nov– \$8K in checking, \$1400 in savings. Added Deb as a signatory on bank account, removed previous president.

2025 budget Social events are biggest cost including National Night Out and Annual meeting, as well as social and learn events. Website and database, second biggest cost. Have brought that cost down since previous years. Pole banners have been a nice expenditure that highlights our existence but the cost would be a large increase in 2025 due to the need to reprint the banners at a different size. Discussion among board and members agreed it's probably not worthwhile to continue. Christine moved, David seconded, all approved budget as written.

Mayor Boesen noted that City Budget listening sessions are upcoming, one is Dec 14, other times listed on City website.

Upcoming DNA Board Election

Jen Bright nominee, will be on ballot, to be presented by Dec 29.

Membership Committee– 163 active memberships (about 190 active members). Plan to be more active in recruiting household members, in addition to business memberships.

Zoning Board meeting, Dec 18 at 1pm, agenda includes 310 Court Ave (Spaghetti Works) conditional use permit request by TeeHee's Comedy Club. DNA membership indicated by 69% on our survey this fall that they'd like to see such an entertainment venue. Copper Cup and Bomb Bar (207 & 209 4th St) looking to make some changes to their building.

Social Events:

Friday, 12/6 at 6pm: Mainframe Studios – meet on 2nd floor by elevators/stairways at 6, we'll break into groups to walk around together. First 5 DNA members to arrive will receive a drink voucher for Tangerine on the first floor.

Tuesday, 12/10 at 6pm til 8ish– DNA Holiday gathering at Tupelo Honey, appetizers provided, drinks for purchase

[Wednesday, 12/18 at 6pm at Julie's, directors work session]

Wednesday, 1/29/25 at 6pm– DNA Annual Meeting at Surety Hotel

January and February monthly meetings cancelled due to NY holiday (Jan) and closeness of annual meeting (Feb)

New Business

ByLaws – Luke suggests that the nomination process ought to be revamped to make it more practical.

Deb moved, David seconded to adjourn at 7:30 pm