



May Board Meeting

Wednesday, 5/7/25 ♦ Central Library Meeting Room 1

Attendees

- Deb Madison-Levi, President,
- Julie Feirer, Board Member
- Jordan Locke, Treasurer
- Jennifer Bright, Board Member
- David Jennings, Social Chair
- Christine Comito, Secretary
- [Luke Ifland, Membership Chair, absent]
- Sgt Hemsted, Des Moines Police
- Renae Mauk, VP Downtown Development, Greater Des Moines Partnership
- Amy Lego, Exec Director, Operation Downtown
- Community members

Community Presentations

- Sgt Hemsted reported on downtown police activity. Expecting Loop Scoop squad to be back monitoring this summer as well. Discussion on police chase/Cowles Common. Uber/Lyft geocache location on 3rd/Court
- Renae Mauk, VP Downtown Development, Greater Des Moines Partnership
- Amy Lego, Exec Director, Operation Downtown
 - GDM Partnership includes 12 counties/24 chambers, 3rd largest in nation which helps status and negotiation and compete at higher level
 - Economic development and talent development are focus
 - Downtown DSM Team within GDMP dedicated to driving growth and vibrancy downtown
 - Downtown DSM Forward Vision Plan includes 6 key initiatives:
 - Green Ring–green spaces downtown, intentional connections
 - Skywalks Reimagined–working with Project 7, a women-owned business in the East Village improving outside various businesses on skywalk. Joy Walk–colors along a section. Window decoration along a part creates shadows along the floor.

- Inner Circle–developing surface parking lots (e.g., south of event center)
 - Stadium District
 - Connected Corridors
 - Stronger Neighborhoods
- Economic Development – American Equity moving downtown, City of DSM moving into 1200 Locust. Excited to see what will happen with City properties on east side of river (Armory, City Hall, etc). 515 Tower, 33 stories, being built. Old Courthouse has been sold. Annex is being redeveloped into office space, likely retail on first floor, 80% leased already. Four-story parking ramp to be built just east, on Court. ISpace business furniture showroom to go into the old Panera space. Fong's new space in East Village offers more space. Gateway Church moved in. Wells Fargo. Rook Room Game Lounge & Cafe going into St Kilda space. Elevator going in to a former Nationwide Building, company out of Omaha, co-warehousing space and services. This building might get a local artist mural on the north side. Hawkeye Hotels purchased the Blood Center, no news on plans. Des Moines Athletic Club, Nick Tillinghast's 4th location (Des Moines Does Things) opening this fall in Equitable Building. Hotori opened next to Horizon Line (Asian inspired market). The Creamery ice cream moved into Nosh location on E Locust.
- Operation Downtown–making downtown safe and clean, welcoming and vibrant in support of a positive experience. Includes East Village. Funded by downtown property owners through fee system. No employees–all contracts via Partnership
- Operation Downtown Ambassadors (contracted with Block by Block). Provide trash removal, pressure washing, graffiti removal, dog waste bag replenishment. Cigarette butt recycling through TerraCycle which makes park benches
- Also provides downtown maintenance, hanging flower baskets and small planter program
- Special Projects for longer term installations, temporary installations, activations. Creative problem solving – murals or colorful lights prevent trouble and graffiti. Optik interactive art at Cowles Commons through May 26, open 24hours.
- Julie Hempel, superintendent from Parks and Recs Dept.
 - May 23-24 Celebrasian event downtown
 - Fence coming down at DMPL for new water feature, by May 15

- Juneteenth celebration at Papajohn block
- Arts Festival, end of June
- World Food Prize
- World Food Festival, September
- Latino Festival
- No 80/35 or 515 Live this year
- Summer employment available, aquatics, parks, etc.
- DSM Trail updates available by text: 84483
- 31 Miles in May – sign up through Parks, walk 31 miles, get a tshirt
- Adaptive baseball and adaptive kayaking newly available
- Summer sports for youth and adults, swim lessons
- Splash pads will open May 31, Aquatic Centers open after that
- Riverside Dog Park open house
- Free Flix, mobile screen, July 4 at Captain Roy's

Standing Reports

1. Approval of April Minutes - Moved by Jordan, 2nd by Jennifer; Approved
2. Treasurer's Report - Jordan Locke
3. Socials Report - Upcoming Events
 - a. Tuesday Together at Mulberry Street Tavern, May 13
 - b. Iowa State Fair Parade, August 6
 - c. DNA Block Party at the Hub Spot, September 20
4. Marketing / Communication Report
 - a. Reimagine DART survey, DNA to make a proclamation supporting Ridership Concept, David moved, Julie seconded, all approved.
5. Membership report – 165 active memberships, increase of 8. Businesses Orchestrate and Slaughterhouse/Haunt just joined

Business Items

- Need a work session, Deb will coordinate

Adjourned at 7:48 pm