



Downtown Neighborhood Association of Des Moines

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Central Library of Des Moines, Meeting Room 1

Call to order at 6pm

Attendance: Board members: David Jennings, Luke Ifland, Jennifer Bright, Julie Feirer, Christine Comito in attendance, Jordan Locke absent

Anthony Leo, Parks & Rec

Brenton Skating Plaza plans to open Nov 21 in conjunction with East Village Promenade Tree Lighting

Fall afterschool programming through Dec 18

Nov 28 Nature hike at Greenwood Park

Dec 5-6 Luminary walks at

Jingle Bell Stroll at Grey's Lake Dec 6

Paws & Claws at Ewing Dog Park Nov 15

Summer seasonal jobs to be posted first week of December.

Reichardt Community Center to open April or May

Sgt Hemsted, Downtown Patrol Update

Incidents down last month by 235 calls, cases down by 4 calls, arrests down 83, tickets down 3, accidents down by 12.

Ashley Watts, Des Moines Foodhall

Goal to open a foodhall downtown Des Moines. Have about 30 vendors who have expressed interest. Dream to have 6 full time vendors (anchor tenants, 1-3 year leases, pay as little rent as possible). Take as much financial pressure off vendors as possible, so they can build their businesses. Short term kiosks for smoothies, coffee, funnel cakes, etc. Community focus, support local businesses and start ups, keep money local. Looking for 8000-10,500 sq ft. as financial sweet spot. Would love to have a patio, adaptive and handicap accessible. Foodhall not food court (food court has chain restaurants). Whatever hours the foodhall is open, vendors would be required to be open.

Meeting format changeup

Luke coordinated with iSpace, 215 10th St (in the old Panera space across from Hobnob) for next month's meeting. We'll have our Dec 3 meeting there and iSpace will host and provide snacks. DNA will have a presentation and panel regarding the Brown garage and some vacant lots, open to Q&A, time to mingle.

Board business will be at quarterly meetings, probably at library, still open to public/members who are welcome to attend and ask questions. No community presentations at business meetings. Will be more focused on work session opportunities.

Train Horn Silent Zone through downtown Des Moines discussion. Why can't we have a silent zone like other cities? Neighbor MaryAnn shared some ideas about working with hotels, East Village, media, downtown residents to local government showing support. Brainstorm

Food Drive: Jennifer Bright spearheading, she works at Tupelo Honey and they are offering a free order of biscuits to anyone who donates. Trying to get DNA building ambassadors to collect food, have printed signs. We've already gotten donations from social media posting. DNA also partnering with ispace. Luke is meeting with WHO-TV and ispace rep to talk about the Food Drive. Luke and Jennifer would like some help picking up and delivering donations.

Event Closure Recommendations to the City of Des Moines. How closures affect certain buildings. How can people get notice of street closures? Improved communications from the City. For example, events at Cowles Commons often closes off Walnut Street access for Plaza and Kirkwood residents. City Councilman Josh Mandelbaum will be at an event at the Plaza on Nov 16, 1 or 2pm for an open forum for Plaza residents

Neighborhood Boundary Expansion. Luke working with City/Heather Tamminga. Earlier this year we talked about including the townhomes on Keo. Josh Mandelbaum thinks it makes sense to include Oakridge Neighborhood, as everything south of the freeway. Oakridge seems to be its own neighborhood or really part of Sherman Hill.

Annual Meeting, January 21, 2026 from 6-8pm. Luke is concerned about having enough space. Last year we had 58 people attend, hoping for more this year. Luke suggested the Kirkwood (his building) event space. They'd charge \$1000 which is our budget. Could get food catered from Tupelo Honey (via Jennifer).

Business Forum: Full Court Press, Kyle Pritchard, CabCo, Ricochet—panel/present to DNA—what are their challenges and wishes of doing business downtown, how can we support, how does Court Ave closing weekend nights affect the businesses. How can DNA help Court Ave be a welcoming place, reduce stigma and negative messaging, residents can ask questions. Would like to host in partnership with Downtown Chamber, Jimmy Olson would be great to organize. Have people reserve tickets so we can cap the number of attendees. Where to hold it? February or March would be great.

Luke shared a proposed DNA Budget for 2026.

Treasurer's Report (Jordan not here, so he shared info with Luke). Have \$12,000 on hand. Increased membership. Total income YTD \$8868, over projected income by \$1700. Exp \$6183, which is below budget.

Approval of October 1 minutes, David moved, Jennifer seconded, all approved.

Membership: current 198 active members, up by 26 over last month.

Adjourned at 7:48pm