

Downtown Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting
May 6, 2026

1. Call to order at 6:04 by David Jennings, In attendance: David Jennings, Luke Ifland, Jennifer Bright, Nick Fox, Jon Cahill, Johnathan Walker Bivans, Miranda DiMaria, Julie Feirer, 2 members
2. Public comments
3. Approval of [previous meeting minutes](#) Luke moved, Johnathan WB 2nd, all approved
4. Officer & committee reports
 - a. Officer
 - i. Presidents report
Trying to keep everyone up to date with weekly recap emails. David will meet with East Village neighborhood association president next week to see how we can collaborate. Christine attended an EV breakfast last week and already invited EV to DNA's Tuesday Together event. Johnathan WB also serves on EV board and asks if DNA can participate in Pride Events, representing downtown at the festival
 - ii. [Treasurer's report](#) (February - April) Miranda diMaria now using Wave software. Website fee and IRS fee for changing to 501(c)3 costs in February. Membership dues coming in. The Haunt joined but then unjoined, so \$500 was deposited then reimbursed to them. Waiting for matching funds from Principal. Waiting for Polk County Grant deposit of \$5000.
 - b. Committee Reports
 - i. Social Committee-Jon (see below)
 - ii. Membership Committee – Jennifer B–208 active members, up one from last month

iii. Marketing & Communications Committee-Julie–shorter more frequent email blasts. Stepping up social media.

5. Governance & Organizational Actions (Vote Required for Increases)

- a. Join It [subscription increase](#)/cleanup (membership platform), Luke researched and Join It is the most competitively priced. Luke feels the features offered are valuable. Has the ability to see history. Price rising by 50% but there don't appear to be any better options for our size and capability. Julie confirmed that other software prices also increasing. Jon C moved, Jennifer B seconded, all approved.
- b. MailChimp [subscription increase](#)/cleanup (newsletter platform), Free tier goes up to 250, our membership is currently at 308 (including businesses, elected officials). Buying a membership on Join It automatically feeds it to MailChimp, but there is no reciprocal deletion from mailchimp when someone is no longer a member. We can clean up periodically, but we're too much on the bubble to depend on never going over 250. Jon C moved, Johnathan WB seconded, all approved.

6. Social planning discussion

- a. July Social & Learn - Wednesday July 1st– Jon Cahill has some items for consideration– choice 1- tour of City Hall (reverse social and learn–tour then social after nearby), {put this one on the back burner til cooler weather} tour of Iowa Event Center backstage, suite areas and Hall (depends of events happening), choice 2 if 1 not available. ICON water trails and social at Mullets
- b. July Tuesday Together - July 14th, Jennifer will ask Ricochet. Luke suggests we extend explicit invitation to East Village on both social and learn and Tuesday Together events.
- c. End of Summer Block Party - Saturday September 26th, David has gotten streets blocked and permits. Will start getting info on website so vendors can apply and people can mark their calendars. Luke working on music. Send out document we used last year as a framework, board members can sign up where they can help. Jennifer B offered Tupelo Honey biscuits

again. We'll ask Full Court Press and others to donate gift cards, etc for raffle. (Law allows 1 raffle per year for nonprofits)

7. Advocacy topic discussion

- a. Restaurant advocacy for struggling downtown businesses, Luke has heard CabCo and Judges are struggling. Discussion, not sure how exactly we can help
 - b. Restore the Core Support, channel 5 in attendance at our meeting to hear our take. Rectangle from Western Gateway to the river, to MLK. Grants available to get a new business up to speed, big commitment to downtown. Meant to encourage retail store fronts to invest in infrastructure to fill empty spaces. Trying to revitalize vacant storefronts. City has earmarked \$7million. Grants up to \$200,000. Yet to be voted on by City Council. DNA will write a Resolution supporting this project (Jon C). Property tax changes by the state may affect availability of these funds. Jennifer moved that DNA will write this resolution of support. Julie seconded. All approved.
8. Board member walk on topics – Carol Maher May is Bike Month; what's the plan for State Fair parade. Carol has been talking with the Fair about encouraging biking to the Fair (DART buses no longer shuttling from SE Polk), bike to the Fair free entry. Would like to join efforts of her Ride On advocacy group. Great opportunity to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety. DNA banner with theme Bike2Fair, Park4Free. Parade is August 12, Wednesday. David will get us registered. Carol volunteers to coordinate parade activities.
9. Adjourn-Jon moved, Jennifer seconded, all approved, Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.