

## **Downtown Area Advisory Committee (DAAC)**

### **October 9, 2014**

Committee members present: Charlie Cole, Ted Guy, Steve Chase, Cathy Click, Tracy Bennett, Gerry Terwilliger, Julie Kolar, Greg Shugars, Chris Lane

Town Staff present: Susan Philp, Mike Scanlon, Denise Tomaskovic

Others present: Jim Kent, Carolyn Kent, Paul Andersen

#### **Agenda Item 1. Review of the Committee's Purpose (Mike Scanlon)**

- Mike explained why the Town Council felt the Committee should be formed and its purpose.
- Big projects have a higher success rate when collective leadership from the community emerges and is flexible in changing as needed, allowing different groups for different parts of the process.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Introductions – Why everyone is here**

- Committee members introduced themselves.

#### **Agenda Item 3. What the "Our Town" findings say (Paul Andersen/Jim Kent)**

- Paul Andersen used a Powerpoint presentation to review the process since it began, outreach to the community, how the map drawings were helpful, the success of the Drop-in Center, growing sense of trust between the community and Town Council, removal of mobile homes, river improvements, and the necessity of honoring the public trust.
- Jim Kent reviewed how the informal process was implemented, mostly through the chat sessions that were held. There were also one-on-one conversations and the popular Drop-in Center on Midland Avenue. Kent also reviewed the informal networks report created by himself, Carolyn, Bill Maron, and Denise. This report is a resource for the DAAC to use.
- Guy asked if the Options that were voted on can be changed into pdf format so they are easier to download and print.
- Chase said the third dimension is missing. We need a three-dimensional representation (elevation drawings) of the ideas being considered. Plan view only goes so far in helping to understand what is being proposed.
- Scanlon said there are some drawings that can help committee members better envision the proposed ideas.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Ground Rules**

- Philp offered a list of ground rules for the committee to consider. There has been a suggestion to hire a moderator for the meetings.
- Discussion followed about different candidates for moderator with the upshot being that the committee would ask Paul Andersen to be the moderator as long as Staff will be present at the meetings with their knowledge of the Town and planning issues.
- Philp continued to review the ground rules with the Committee members agreeing to all of them.
- Lane asked if the goal is to agree on one idea or winnow down the list of options.
- Discussion followed about the nature of the process. The question was asked as to whether or not the elected officials will accept the final offering. The point was made that the deliverable is

still unknown but the goal of this group is to distill the community's ideas into something that is agreeable to most, if not all, committee members. This is a democratic process.

- Comments were made to the effect that the committee members need to trust the process and the elected officials need to trust the process the committee members go through. Nobody wants to waste their time on this if the Council just throws it out the window.
- There will be two opportunities to report to the Town Council during the process. The Council will also get to see the minutes of these meetings. It was pointed out that the Town Council was instrumental in appointing the committee members so a level of trust is already in place on the Council's part.
- The question was asked as to whether or not it is appropriate for the committee members to partake in one-on-one conversations with people who have made it clear that they want to tell the committee member about their thoughts. The committee members thought that since they aren't elected or paid, there could be no bribery involved.
- It should be considered an honor to have people ask to speak with the committee members one-on-one.
- Committees such as this can result in friendships and unexpected alliances being formed that extend into other areas of community life. These friendships can be drawn on when other projects come into play.

#### **Agenda Item 5. The other information we're collecting**

- Philp reviewed the progress on the survey that is in the process of being developed. It should be ready for dissemination within the next couple of weeks.
- Maps posted on the wall were reviewed.
- Philp asked what other information would be helpful for the committee members to have.
- Click asked if it's important to know who owns the title to the properties in question. Scanlon briefly explained the ownership issues. The Town is clearing up the title questions.
- It was suggested that the committee members ruminate on what they see the Town looking like five years from now. Begin with the end in mind.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Review of future agendas**

- The future agendas were reviewed and preferred site visit dates and times were established.
- The survey will be sent to every household in town with results expected in November.
- The charge before the committee is to start with Option Two as the basis for consideration, since that option received a clear majority of the vote in the June Vision Survey.