

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

2/3/22 5:30

Councilman Present: Scott Phillips

Members Present: Danny Stewart, Brent Drew, Jeff Corry, Maria Twitchell, Ron Cardon, Mark Baruffi

Staff Present: Brooke Twitchell

Public Present: Sophie Kronick

Minutes: Megan Anderson

Call to Order: Maria Twitchell

Pledge of Allegiance: Ron Cardon

Approval of Minutes:

Moved to next month

Public Agenda

None

Business Agenda:

Introduction of the new Events Director Brooke Twitchell

Brooke introduced herself and let us know how excited she is to get moving in this Events position. She has some plans to get an event calendar created and printed. Currently working on planning a LOVE event for Valentines Day. "Love Where You Live" a social media campaign where people can go take their pictures in front of the LOVE letters and post on social media some reasons why you love where you live. This is something Brooke hopes to carry on each year.

Brooke has reached out to some bagpipers to come and play on the corner of Center and Main on St. Patrick's Day.

Scott and Jennie expressed their excitement for Brooke to be in this position and be able to help this committee create a vibrant and happening downtown area. Brooke feels that Cedar City has a lot to offer, and we are open and available with COVID unlike other places that have shut down their event spaces and this makes our community so much more inviting for things that haven't been going on in other cities.

Scott wanted to make sure Brooke knows of the Railroad 100th anniversary coming up next year and we all should keep that in mind when making any plans for 2023.

Downtown Main Street Tree Update

The general consensus right now is that because it is such a big heavy load that right now, they are going to try and identify the problems. They will do the pruning of the trees for right now, just won't be replacing any trees right now.

It was discussed also that we hire a landscape architect to assist. Danny is going to put together an RFP for this and he will be able to use his Rural County Grant funding to pay for the landscape architect. We need to decide what it is exactly that we want. Danny is going to request in the RFP that we receive 3 options from the landscape architect. Richfield City was an example in our discussion.

Danny will also be putting out a new RFP for the ongoing upkeep of the downtown tree lighting. We have lost our previous contractor on that. Jeff would like the jumps in the sidewalk, the settling and roots growing that push the sidewalk to be addressed. This is something we hope to have addressed in the RFP and the current sidewalk problems have addressed as soon as possible. Maybe this is something the grant money can do, is hire someone private to do this to help the parks department out.

Utah Main Street Program

Before we talk about the webinar, we want to discuss the application with Sophie and Megan. Megan commented that working on this grant with Sophie was awesome. She let Sophie know what we wanted to portray in the application and Sophie worked with that and made it amazing. She put into words exactly what we want and beyond. Made the budget spreadsheet make perfect sense and understandable and was very articulate in her words. The grant was submitted on January 31st, and we will hear back mid-February on how that grant was accepted by the Utah Main Street Program board.

The webinar for UMSP was so well done this month. It was interesting to see how workable UDOT has become with other committees and groups. The takeaway from this was to get our business owners involved and create some buy in with these owners. This is a planning grant. Danny mentions he would love to talk to Kaysville and see what their process was going into this and find out what their timeline was. Maybe we roll in the landscape architect into this as well.

Business in the downtown just want more businesses. They want the roads to be slower because the noise and smell is a problem. Scott asks if it would be helpful to have wider sidewalks. Mark agrees that the sidewalks would be a benefit to be wider. It makes a bigger footprint for business owners to use. They don't have to worry about the setback of the building to create more dining. It could be pushed out from the sidewalks. It would also help to reduce the lanes and make it more walkable. If we reduce lanes, are they going to make us get rid of the parking on Main Street? This is part of the battle. Scott

says we just let them know what we want if they tell us to eliminate the parking, we will tell them we don't want to and that should start the negotiations. Jenny wraps it up with Parking, and speed need to be solved. Our streetscape and the trees need to be included in all of this. Maybe we just compile all our studies to put together all of the visions and suggestions we have received and put them all together.

Danny mentioned that his takeaway from this webinar was the fact that this was UDOT and a UDOT consultant who does this in multiple states, and this is the exact scenario they are dealing with in every city is that the main highway is Main Street. To Danny that was really encouraging is that they want to help with the solutions. Jennie suggests we put together a schedule of bullet points to discuss at each meeting going forward and hash them out one item at a time. Maria thinks we should speak to Kaysville City first. Then maybe they will have something to offer so we don't have to reinvent the wheel on this. Maria knows Shane Scott their City Manager and she offered to reach out to him.

Other Business:

Danny let us know that we were awarded the Rural County Grant Part B for \$300,000, titled Phase 1 Historic Downtown Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade. The matching portion will be private, the work will be performed on the 6-acre parcel between the Center Street and the Baymont Inn. They hope to be starting work on this soon. He chose to go with this project because it was ready to go and it makes it available for us to close this out, so that we can put in again for this part B grant next year.

Scott did speak to the group building the hotel in the downtown area and they promised to make it something that would harmonize within our Historic Downtown.

AARP grant – a community grant to assist seniors to be active in our community. If we want to put in for it, it is due by March 22nd. This would be our chance to place benches, art, and historical stories to be told. We could look at putting in more historical markers. This is a grant that is not a matching grant but needs a project to support. Scott mentioned that this corner is where the social hall was and there is a commemoration plaque there but maybe we could do something else too. We could definitely tell some historic stories with markers as well.

Adjourn:

***Motion:** Scott Phillips made a motion to adjourn. Mark Baruffi seconded this motion and all present unanimously approved.*