

DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE

Friday, January 27, 2023

12:05 pm IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Council Chambers, City Hall

By Phone or GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/619906421>

For the Public, Members of the media and the public may attend by calling: (US)+1 (224) 501-3412

Access Code: 619-906-421

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order.
 - a. In attendance: McFarland, Holloway, Beyer, Smith, Grinwald, Davis, Board, Lampe, Hoffman, Becker. Guest Maureen McBroom & Jim Romlein. Michelle Elias joined virtually at 12:30 pm.
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes.
 - a. No previous minutes.
3. Opening for public comment.
4. New Business
 - a. Melissa Lampe commented on street closures.
 - i. Steve Board noted impact of increased traffic on Cady St. Need more signs and social media posts. Communicate with trucking companies about route changes. Concerned with parking in front of the bowling alley. Striping Cady St because of the bridge and downtown corridor reconstruction.
 - ii. Melissa Lampe gave positive comments about aesthetic improvement of street repairs on downtown. Address curbs in future.
 - iii. Mayor discussed upcoming future notifications.
 - iv. Hoffman asked about placing wayfinding signs ahead of reconstruction.
5. Maureen McBroom presented on the Vibrant Spaces Grant opportunity.
6. Review Alley Plan
 - a. Discussed proposed alleyway improvements, including permeable pavers to address issues. Differences between publicly and privately owned alleys within the city.
 - b. Grinwald asked about maintenance of alleyways and pedestrian access during sidewalk reconstruction.
 - c. Hoffman suggested 3D painted artwork for alley surfaces and flags at alley entry points and in-ground lighting for the alleyways.
 - d. Lampe said making investments in the alleys would encourage landlords to work with tenants on reducing trash. Naming alleys for identification purposes.
 - e. Board sees the issue as short and long-term problems: address 2028 business access issues. Should be placed on next meeting agenda.
 - f. Beyer explained the PASER Rating System used to evaluate alleys.
 - i. Holloway stated that contractors could use plywood walkways and other methods to ensure continued access to downtown businesses.
 - ii. Romlein inquired about the use of side streets during reconstruction. Staff confirmed they would still be usable. Suggested use of "gators" to drive customers to businesses.
 - iii. Consensus to move forward with grant application.
7. Mayor McFarland commented on budget issues, and the transportation study has been cut from the 2023 city budget.
 - i. Priorities right now include creating an alleyway plan.

- ii. Hoffman brought up one-way street issues. Could be evaluated.
 - iii. Grinwald asked about temporary traffic lights during reconstruction.
 - iv. McFarland stated that a transportation study would be viewed as a priority for downtown.
 - v. Holloway explained the concept of backdoor signage. Possibly temporary signs affixed to exterior walls of downtown businesses, with permission of business owners/landlords. Also, possible use of feather signs as an alternative.
 - vi. Romlein suggested using painted striping to guide pedestrians.
 - vii. McFarland stated the can not spend unbudgeted funds on private business needs such as signage. Noted that funding would need to come from other groups.
 - viii. Discussion on placing items to divide up the downtown into sections on the next meeting agenda so task force members can be assigned businesses to work with about reconstruction planning.
 - ix. Ellias talked about why identifying proposed lampposts is important and will schedule a meeting with city staff to discuss the corridor design and what is needed.
8. Establish next meeting date and time.
- a. Goal to meet monthly at a set date/time.
9. Adjourn.
- a. Lampe made a motion to adjourn. Board seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.