

DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE

Thursday, October 3, 2024

2:00 pm IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Room 2044, City Hall, 106 Jones St, Watertown, WI

Virtual Meeting Info: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 617 065 5357 Passcode: 53094

One tap mobile +16469313860

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6170655357?pwd=96tcitGxXtZD4na19NqSUHQuENC2yf.1>

1. Call to order at 2:06 pm.
 - a. Attendance- Present: McFarland, Becker, Moldenhauer, Purtell, Grinwald, Board, Hoffman, & Mazzoni. The Daily Times was also present.
Virtual: Michele Ellias
Absent: Amber Smith, Mike Trego, Andrew Beyer, Ryan Wagner
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
 - a. Approval of Minutes 7.24.24 & 8.27.24
Motioned by Hoffman, seconded by Purtell, carried unanimously
3. Old Business
 - a. Main Street bridge closure update (Beyer/McFarland)
 - i. Project is delayed. Mayor met with ZTI and DOT to get options on accelerating the project. Is supposed to meet next week again. March 4th, is the goal.
 - ii. Andy brought up concern on the construction of the round a bout on 16 and how will people get around if both roads are closed and detoured. Supposed to start March 5th. Emily will discuss with WisDOT
 - iii. Concern about this happening again during the Main Street construction.
 - b. Transportation Network Evaluation
 - i. raSmith will hold a public involvement meeting on the one-way streets Oct. 23rd at City Hall.
 - ii. The study looks at the high traffic roads, not the obvious ones.
 - c. Quarterly business meetings status update (Purtell)
 - i. First meeting was last night. (10/2) It was a heated one with a lot of communication on the fact that the bridge project failed the businesses, so how do we prevent the same on the Main St. construction.
 - ii. Businesses want information and sequencing so they can start preparing and making business decisions now.
 - iii. There was a decent turnout but would like to increase the attendance. Jody will send an email before and after the meetings for transparency.
 - iv. Jody will send a survey out to the residents on if the only access to their place is through the front entrance.
 - v. Asking task force members to attend these meetings.
 - vi. Think about incentives for citizens that shop downtown.
 - d. Update on building inspection questions during construction (Beyer)
 - i. Building, Safety, and Zoning said it is difficult to address this issue this far in advance, not knowing future staffing, etc.
 - ii. There isn't a proactive approach right now but will be good to have an avenue for the property owners if needed (possibly such as a low interest loan) and something comes up when the construction starts.

- iii. Michele Elias stated someone is always on call at the DOT to address the issues that come up when it comes to underground tanks storage and the like to keep the project from falling far behind.
- e. Curb bump-outs: update and discussion (Beyer)
 - i. 3rd and 4th St are set and locked in. No adjustments can be made to plans at this point.
- 4. New Business
 - a. Discuss crosswalk ideas/enhancements
 - i. MUTCD standards need to be followed for safety reasons.
 - ii. Mason will run sign ideas past Andrew.
 - iii. Michele stated there will be limitations because it's a historic district.
 - iv. Jody will find and bring examples to next meeting.
 - b. Newsletter update
 - i. Mid-October for a release date.
 - ii. Update on the quarterly meetings, bridge, and point people to the city's FB page for a weekly update on the bridge.
 - iii. Decided to continue with the newsletters.
 - c. Watertown Main Street WEDC Grant application
 - i. Watertown Main Street needs to partner with the city to get the grant.
 - ii. It's \$250,000 to make the alleys/back doors more accessible to the public.
 - iii. Due in December
 - iv. Jody will create a letter of support for others to sign.
 - d. Photo Ops/Vistas meeting with Arts council.
 - i. Postponed due to a project that came up.

Alderman Board asked if we could do these meetings at different downtown businesses. Put out to businesses if they would like to host.

- 5. Confirm next meeting date: November 19th, Time tbd.
- 6. Adjournment at 2:58 pm

- a. **Motioned by Moldenhauer, seconded by Grinwald, carried unanimously**