

Minutes of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 3:00 pm
Morehead Planetarium, Downtown Chapel Hill, NC

Members Present: George Draper, Linda Convissor, Chris Jones, Glenn Booth, Tommy O'Connell, Dick Mann, Patty Griffin, Mark Vevele

Members Absent: Cheryl Lin, Kevin Foy

Staff Present: Dwight Bassett; Interim Executive Director, Meg McGurk; Assistant Director, Bobby Funk; Office Manager

Others Present: Pat Evans, Carlo Robustelli, Daniel Goldberg, Andy Pennock, Elizabeth Friend

Citizen Comments

Pat Evans announced the next Friends of Downtown meeting which will feature Greg Overbeck from Chapel Hill Restaurant Group as the speaker.

Consent Agenda

Chris Jones moved to adopt the minutes. Tommy O'Connell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Items for Review/ Discussion

Jim Norton Update - George Draper made announcement regarding Jim Norton's arrival confirming his start date as June 1. Mr. Draper announced that there will be a meet and greet for Mr. Norton on June 4 at Spanky's Restaurant.

Vote on Grad. Student Board Appointment – George Draper introduced Andy Pennock followed by a brief introduction by Mr. Pennock. He explained that he had been living in Chapel Hill for six years and talked of his excitement for being on the board. Linda Convissor motioned for his appointment to the board, Mark Vevele seconded; motion carried.

Renew Board Member Terms & Vote on Executive Committee– George Draper introduced board renewals for certain board members. Meg McGurk explained the renewal process for George Draper, Linda Convissor, Dwight Bassett, and Patty Griffin. Tommy O'Connell proposed putting everyone up for a group vote for approval. Tommy motioned for renewal of the group to the board, Dick Mann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Dwight Bassett Recap – Mr. Bassett gave a report on his time as the Partnership Interim Director. He spoke of the construction for the Downtown MOU. Mr. Bassett also gave a recap of the parking recommendations with the inclusion of replacement parking which continues to move forward. Mr. Bassett also talked about the small art grant which is being established for the downtown district. Linda Convissor expressed her gratitude for Mr. Bassett which was seconded by Carlo Robustelli. George Draper asked Mr. Bassett about the summer slowing of businesses in downtown. Mr. Bassett talked of the importance of business openings and retention. Mr. Bassett announced that the Triangle Business Journal will be hosting the state of Chapel Hill on June 19.

Tommy O'Connell announced that Saturday and Sunday of Graduation weekend at UNC was strong but Thursday and Friday was slow. Mr. O'Connell attributed this to a reflection in the national economy. Mr. Bassett talked about a working group addressing the barriers to new business development in Chapel Hill. Mr. Bassett talked about barriers at various stages of the decision process. George Draper asked about the progress in signage in parking for downtown. Chris Jones asked about mimicking UNC's new signage. Mr. Bassett discussed potential streetscape changes related to the development of Lot 5. Pat Evans talked about a Friends of Downtown meeting in July which will discuss lighting. Mr. Bassett added that not all lighting problems are in public spaces. Mr. Draper pushed for better lighting at Bank of America. Mr. O'Connell recommended businesses keeping their lights on in the evening.

Other - George Draper talked about the downtown planter update. Mr. Bassett said the planter repair would probably be handled by public works. Mr. O'Connell mentioned having local farmers take care of a planter. Mr. Draper discussed lag time of the planter repairs. Linda Convissor talked about how UNC grounds keepers should BJ and Clay (CHDP grounds keepers). Carlo Robustelli talked about sending issues to the town manager. Linda Convissor announced that Bolshoy Ballet is advertising in town

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobby Funk, Office Manager