

Minutes of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 3:00 pm
Morehead Planetarium, Downtown Chapel Hill, NC

Members Present: Chris Jones, Glenn Booth, Dick Mann, Mark Vevle, Cheryl Lin, Andy Pennock

Members Absent: George Draper, Linda Convisor, Kevin Foy, Tommy O'Connell, Dwight Bassett

Staff Present: Jim Norton; Executive Director, Meg McGurk; Assistant Director, Bobby Funk; Office Manager

Others Present: Pat Evans, Carlo Robustelli

Chris Jones called the meeting to order

Citizen Comments:

Pat Evans announced the next Friends of Downtown meeting citing Jim Norton as the speaker.

Items for Review/ Discussion

Jim Norton First Week Update - Jim Norton talked about plans to go meet with all downtown businesses. Mr. Norton has already had various meetings with people in town already. Dick Mann asked about the potential need for expanded office space at the Partnership citing a potential opening in September. Mr. Mann also pointed out that UNC takes over University Square on July 1 with a potential opening there along with parking. Chris Jones mentioned that Grubb Ellis manages the building next door to BB&T and there may be an opening there. Potential space at the News and Observer building may be available as well. Mr. Jones talked of his availability to go visit businesses along with Mr. Norton.

Dwight Bassett mentioned the retail analysis at 8:30 tomorrow morning at Morehead Planetarium. Parking recommendation is coming on June 22 from staff to Town Council. Council wants an advisory board for the parking changes. Grading is going on at the Basnight lots all for leased parking. Chris Jones asked if Joe Riddle's lot is in motion. Mr. Bassett said it is in motion.

Locally Grown Update – Jim Norton gave an update for Locally Grown and talked about the schedule and the details for alcohol. Glenn Boothe recommended having Loco Pops at concert nights as well as film nights. Chris Jones asked about what liability insurance is needed for beer at concerts. Staff needs to follow up with our insurance carrier to make sure we are adequately covered.

Marketing Subcommittee Update - Meg gave an overview of what the marketing event will be. It will be held at The Crunkleton Bar with Holden Thorp and Kevin Foy to speak. Ms. McGurk talked about catering and ticketing of the event. Catering will be by La Rez and Bliss Bakery.

Announcements from the Board - Chris Jones announced the Cluck U is reopened. Jim Norton announced that an Irish pub will be coming to downtown in the near future. Elizabeth Edwards is opening a furniture store on Rosemary St. Glenn brought up the smoking law in regards to the hookah bar. The board will contact the hookah bar to show our support for the hookah bar exception in the legislation. Dwight announced the arts coop meeting including three subcommittees (marketing, finance, and administration)

Discussion followed about the potential future of the Varsity; potentially another theater or performance venue. Dick Mann mentioned conjecture of a potential theater at university square. Dwight Bassett said that public works have been out to look at the damaged planters on Franklin St. The most damaged planters will be repaired quickly. Glenn talked about the non-smoking law causing an influx cigarette butts on the sidewalks. Mr. Bassett talked about the need to have info about sidewalk dinning available more readily, and potentially changing policy for sidewalk dinning in regards to streetscape. Dwight talked about streetscape master plan, that we should have a response to take back to council regarding the MOU. Mr. Bassett mentioned the potential for mast arms on the corner of Columbia St. and Franklin St. Chris Jones inquired about the status of the cross walk on West Franklin St. Mr. Mann asked about Mr. Bassett's assessment on the status of 140 West. Dwight said we may be looking at another year before it breaks ground.

Dick Mann motioned to approve minutes Mark Vevle seconded.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobby Funk, Office Manager