

Minutes of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Friday, February 15, 2008 7:30 a.m.
The Franklin Hotel, Downtown Chapel Hill, NC

Board Members Present: Dwight Bassett, Laurie Paolicelli, Chris Jones, Linda Convissor, George Draper, Carlo Robustelli

Board Members Absent: Dick Mann, Andrea Rohrbacher, Bronwyn Meritt

Others Present: Liz Parham, Executive Director; Meg McGurk, Assistant Director; Kevin Mason, David McCallum; UNC student, Megan Gill; UNC student, Daniel Goldberg, Pat Evans, Jen

Linda Convissor called the meeting to order.

Citizen Comments

Pat Evans announced the next meeting of the Friends of Downtown for February 28, 2008.

The board approved the minutes from the January board of directors meeting.

George Draper announced his appointment to the Friends of Downtown board of directors. He hopes with his appointment to both boards that there will be continued communication and collaboration between the two organizations.

Items for Review

Towing Ordinance/Employee Zone/Parking Study – Liz Parham explained the background information of the proposed towing ordinance that the town council is currently considering. The ordinance would limit the amount of money the tow truck operators would be able to charge and pancreas the forms of payment they could take. Liz Parham had spoken at the council meeting conveying the boards concerns and the council was expected to decide on the issue in March. Additionally, Liz Parham explained the idea of creating employee parking zones in the downtown to free up public parking spaces for downtown customers.

Items Requiring Action

Farmers Market – Liz Parham explained to the board the background information regarding local farmers who had approached the partnership and the parks and recreation department about creating a market in the downtown and that partnership staff had been doing research and talking to other area markets about the proposed market. Kevin Mason, a local baker, gave background of his business and the need for more markets in our community. The board members discussed logistical and market management concerns as well as costs. Liz Parham explained that the Partnership still had questions and concerns about the market but would be continuing to look for answers for those questions. Linda Convissor motioned that the board endorses the idea of moving ahead with exploring the farmers' market idea with staff researching issues including looking at funding sources from the town and reporting back. Chris Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Budget/Plan of Work – Liz Parham updated the board on the projected figures for next year's budget and the additional changes that were made to the Plan of Work since the last meeting. Board members gave direction on pursuing funding opportunities and potential community partners. Dwight Bassett voiced concerns on overextending Partnership staff and including too many initiatives in the budget. Chris Jones motioned to approve the Plan of Work revisions, Linda Convissor seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Rezoning Application- Liz Parham updated the board on the rezoning issues surrounding the Courtyard. The board discussed endorsing the rezoning application with the potential to rezone other lots in the future that would free up parking for employees in the downtown. Linda Convissor motioned to endorse the rezoning application with consideration for residential boundaries. Chris Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

The remaining items on the agenda were tabled until the next board meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg McGurk
Assistant Director