

Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Thursday, August 11, 2011
Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership Conference Room; Chapel Hill, NC

Members Present: Tommy O'Connell, Patty Griffin, Glenn Boothe George Draper, Mark Kleinschmidt, Dwight Bassett, Chris Jones, Cheryl Lin, Jeff DeLuca, Richard Watkins

Members Absent: Linda Convissor, Gordon Merklein, Don Tise

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

Consent Agenda

George Draper called the meeting to order. The Board reviewed last month's minutes. Chris Jones motioned for approval of minutes. Tommy O'Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Items for Review/ Discussion

New Board Member Introduction – Mr. Norton introduced Richard Watkins. Mr. Watkins greeted the Board and explained that UNC GPSF will be sponsoring the final Locally Grown Concert as a back-to-school event for graduate students.

Orange County Quarter Cent Tax Discussion – Mr. Norton introduced this initiative, it will be on the ballot in November. Half will be for economic development and half will be for education. Some funds will flow to the small business loan program. Tommy O'Connell discussed the importance of the tax funding both Chapel Hill city schools as well as the county. There is potentially over \$2 million in increased funds from the initiative. Mr. O'Connell moved to support the initiative, Chris Jones seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Locally Grown Update – Meg McGurk and I gave an update. The Board spoke positively about the event. Mark Kleinschmidt spoke about moving to the Church Street plaza in years to come after construction is complete. There is an agreement with Ram Development to fund programming on the plaza. Mr. O'Connell spoke positively of bar business after the events. Ms. McGurk discussed promotions from businesses cross promoting after-event programming.

Website Update – I gave an update to the Board about growth with the new agency website since its launch in April. Usage has increased significantly as well as depth of visit. Flexibility of the site makes it capable to embed several new functions.

Other - Mr. Norton talked about our meeting with Butch Kisiah re: sidewalk cleaning. The Town will be doing sidewalk cleaning twice a year, after Halloween and before graduation. Public works owns the pressure washer. Mr. Norton also talked about the new streetscape which has begun construction on West Rosemary St. The new crosswalk is up and running. Mr. O'Connell thanked Mr. Kleinschmidt for help making it happen. Mr. O'Connell discussed the significant drop in car speed since the new light was installed. Last week the Chrysler lot was open for business. Mr. Norton talked about how he has been meeting with all council candidates. Mr. Kleinschmidt mentioned that Morehead Planetarium isn't going to be doing early voting this year. They will be looking for other space downtown. There needs to be hardwired for internet. There needs to be secure place to keep voting stations onsite.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobby Funk, Program Director