

**RENAISSANCE ZONE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 29, 2013**

The Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority met on October 29, 2013 in the David J. Blackstead Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building at 221 North 5th Street.

Authority members present were Curt Walth, Jim Christianson, Chuck Huber, Jeff Ubl and Kevin Magstadt.

Authority members George Keiser and Brenda Smith were absent.

Technical Advisor Bruce Whittey was present.

Staff members present were Jason Tomanek (Planning) and Hilary Balzum (Planning).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walth called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. the Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority met to discuss the Game Changers and the Essential Projects recommended in the Downtown Bismarck Sub-Area Study. Below are the comments and recommendations of the Renaissance Zone Authority.

GAME CHANGERS

Main Avenue Traffic Calming

The Main Avenue 'Road Diet' is a supported and endorsed project. The Renaissance Zone Authority would recommend that the Main Avenue improvements be done in concert with the removal of the Chancellor Square one way streets to help alleviate the potential congestion to Main Avenue.

Depot Plaza

The Renaissance Zone Authority is supportive of the Depot Plaza concept. The question was raised and the Authority would like the issue addressed; *Who will program, manage and operate the Depot Plaza space?*

Fifth Street Improvements

The general consensus of the Renaissance Zone Authority would be to identify the Bowen Avenue Ramp project as a Game Changer and switch the Fifth Street Improvements project to an Essential Project. The Renaissance Zone Authority indicated the Bowen Avenue Ramp project would help spur retail development and allow other properties (i.e. Kirkwood Mall) an opportunity to capitalize on the ramp project and expand and enhance their facilities.

Civic Center Convention Hotel

The Renaissance Zone Authority is supportive of the Civic Center Convention Hotel project and also recommends considering the project be melded or combined with the Bowen Avenue Ramp project.

ESSENTIAL PROJECTS

Sixth Street Cultural Trail

The general consensus of the Renaissance Zone Authority is that more study and engineering information would need to be developed to implement the project.

Mehus Commons

The Renaissance Zone Authority indicated that the concept for the Mehus Commons is excellent and overall the Authority is very supportive of this project. Again, the question was raised relating to who will program, manage and operate the Commons space. An additional question would be, will the same entity that programs and operates the Depot Plaza be responsible for the Mehus Commons?

Chancellor Square

The Renaissance Zone Authority considers the elimination of the one-way street system within Chancellor Square an absolute must project to implement. As previously stated, the Authority considers this project important to implement in concert with the Main Avenue Traffic Calming project.

Fifth Street Pedestrian Underpass

The Renaissance Zone Authority has concerns relating to the cost and feasibility of implementation. However, the Authority is generally supportive and indicated this project is as important as the other identified Essential Projects.

Rail Trail

The Renaissance Zone Authority recognizes this project would be an amenity for residents living in the downtown area as well as other community residents. Additionally, the general consensus of the Authority members is that the Rail Trail crossing at Washington Street may be difficult and costly to construct.

Public Market

The Renaissance Zone Authority is supportive of the proposed higher and better use of the property. The Authority also recognizes the significance of the retail anchor and supporting businesses that would bolster downtown retail opportunities and provide some of the essential commercial uses necessary to support downtown residents; in particular, a food market, general goods and services.

Neighborhood Park

The concept of a neighborhood park in addition to more housing around the downtown area is supported and encouraged.

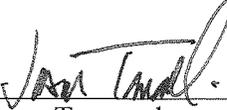
Bowen Avenue Ramp

As previously stated, the Renaissance Zone Authority would recommend melding the Bowen Avenue Ramp and the Civic Center Convention Hotel into one Game Changer project.

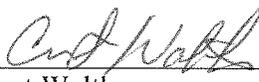
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Walth adjourned the meeting of the Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Tomanek
Recording Secretary



Curt Walth
Chairman