

Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force

The Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force met at 8:30 am on August 12, 2014 in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 4th Floor of the City/County Building at 221 North 5th Street in Bismarck. Present were: Co-Chair Brenda Smith and members Kevin Ruhland, Dawn Kopp, Kate Herzog, Jason Tomanek, Kelsey Ruhland, Jim Christianson and Andrea Travnicek. Also present were Keith Hunke, Kelvin Hullet, Bruce Whittey, Jeff Ubl, and Bill Wocken.

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were received and moved for approval by Jim Christianson. The motion was seconded by Dawn Kopp and approved by acclamation.

Co-Chair Brenda Smith asked for a report on the banners the task force was planning to display on the decorative street light standards in the downtown area. Kate Herzog reported that the banners had been modified to change the wording to a "Welcome to Bismarck" message. They are expected to ship on August 19, 2014. Kate asked the committee members to consider helping with installation of the banners the latter part of the month. This would be a good press opportunity. Kate will let Bill know when the banners are ready for installation and Bill will poll the members for participation in the installation

Jeff Ubl reported to the group that the Civic Center promenade sidewalk from the downtown plan had been modified to fit the space available and to comply with existing city parking lot landscape requirements. The new design will feature an 11 foot wide sidewalk, saw cut in three foot sections, with the existing curblin being maintained. Conduit for decorative lighting will be stubbed out under the new sidewalk and a landscape buffer around the new parking lot will be provided. Locations for tree planting pits will be included in the design.

Bill reported that a budget request had been submitted to study the three lane section on Main Avenue as well as the 6th Street cultural trail. The Budget Committee had suggested the Main Avenue study be funded and that it consist of a survey of existing conditions and painting of the three lane section so driver reactions could be recorded. The cultural trail study was not recommended for funding in 2015.

Jason Tomanek reported that he and Kevin Ruhland had discussed the new downtown design standards project. They had been in touch with Sioux Falls, SD about their new downtown development effort and were hoping to gain some insights. He said they had reviewed other community standards and queried design professionals for their suggestions. He said they felt the public should be encouraged to offer their input. One way to accomplish this will be with a booth at Urban Harvest. The public will be encouraged to react to design goal statements and to express their preferences for the treatment of the downtown in new and remodeled building projects. They will also utilize

the web page and social media input for this purpose. Brenda suggested the Young Professionals group should be sought out. Kate suggested business cards with the downtown web site access address be printed and freely distributed

Jason discussed the opportunity for a design review committee to guide future downtown projects. In his preliminary contacts this concept was welcomed by most people, including design professionals. He talked about getting a wide distribution of talent on the committee. He hoped the committee and the design standards could be ready for introduction by the end of 2014.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

Reported by Bill Wocken