

Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force

The Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force met at 8:30 am on February 10, 2015 in the Mayor's Conference Room in the City/County Building at 221 North 5th Street in Bismarck. Present were: Brenda Smith, John Warford, Andrea Travnicek, Dawn Kopp, Kate Herzog, Jason Tomanek, Kayla Ver Helst, Larry Oswald and Jim Christianson. Also present were Keith Hunke, Mark Berg and Bill Wocken.

Brenda Smith opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. The minutes of the January 13, 2015 meeting were received and approved on the motion of Jim Christianson with Dawn Kopp seconding. All present approved of the action.

Brenda Smith asked Mark Berg, City Traffic Engineer, to meet with the group regarding the Main Avenue "road diet" project. Mark said he had recently been tasked to draft the RFP for this project. He said he will include an inventory of existing street features, signing and signal locations as well as input meetings to be part of the project. He hopes to initiate the RFP by early March with a report due in mid-June. Design for the improvements would be completed in July with field activities planned for August, 2015. Mark said the project would study Main Avenue between Washington and 7th Streets. Signal head alignment, signal timing and phasing will be part of the study.

Jason Tomanek reported the downtown design standards were hoped to be before the Planning Commission in March, 2015 and to the City Commission the following month. He said much developer input was being gathered. A copy of the standards are available in the Community Development Department. Larry Oswald asked if the standards would apply to large scale developments. Jason affirmed that they would.

Kate Herzog said City Forester Jackson Bird had estimated the cost to replace trees in the tree pits downtown at \$200 to \$300 per tree for 2inch caliper stock. Tree varieties were being sought. The worst areas would be inventoried and those areas explored for replanting first. Discussion followed about whether or not a portion of the recently raised parking fines had been budgeted for tree replacements. Bill Wocken will check on this .It was suggested a Spring, 2015 tree replacement project be planned for Arbor Day.

A good deal of discussion followed regarding the construction of a matrix to track the progress of committee efforts in the downtown. Jason Tomanek offered to work on a matrix document. There was also discussion about working toward a one year anniversary report from the task force to the City Commission.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for March 10, 2015.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

Reported by Bill Wocken