

## **Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force**

The Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force met at 8:30 am on May 12, 2015 in the Mayor's Conference Room in the City/County Building at 221 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Bismarck. Present were: Brenda Smith, Andrea Travnicek, Dawn Kopp, Kate Herzog, Jason Tomanek and Kevin Ruhland. Also present were Mayor Seminary, Keith Hunke, Jeff Heintz, Beth Peske, Jonathan Campbell, Sheri Grossman and Bill Wocken.

Brenda Smith opened the meeting. The minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting were received and approved on the motion of Dawn Kopp with Andrea Travnicek seconding. All present approved of the action.

Jonathan Campbell, the manager of the Camp Hancock historical site, was introduced to the task force. Jonathan also manages the former Governor's Mansion for the ND Historical Society. He said Camp Hancock is open to events and that he would welcome a Stronger relationship with the downtown. He stressed that Camp Hancock was a historic site and that temporary facilities might be located there but that no permanent structures would be allowed. The state also owns the metal building and parking lot east of the historic site. Camp Hancock can be booked for private events for a small fee but it is free for public events.

Beth Peske, City Forester, and Jeff Heintz, Director of Service Operations, discussed tree replacements in the downtown. They said there are eleven open pits within Chancellor Square and that plans were being made to fill those locations in 2015. Jeff recommended the Chancellor Square area be filled even though a redesign of the mall was being considered.

There are 22 other open tree pits outside Chancellor Square but there are no current plans to fill them. The task force discussed a program under which the business owners in the area could adopt a tree by paying for a new tree, its installation and maintenance. It was suggested the Forestry Division accomplish the work and that the tree stock be at least two inch caliper. It was suggested signs be placed in the vacant locations promoting the planting program. The Partners In Planting program would be available to financially assist this effort.

At its last meeting the task force had asked for the cost to redesign Chancellor Square to allow two-way traffic. Bill Wocken reported that Traffic Engineer Mark Berg suggested an RFP for re-design of the mall be considered. He estimated the cost of the study and design program would be \$150,000. In addition, upgrading the utility system should be considered as long as the streets would be open. It was noted that while there would be a need to either rebuild or substantially modify the existing Chancellor Square streets, many other streets in the downtown area need substantial reconstruction. It was

suggested the city be requested by the task force to consider a downtown pavement replacement program to cover all these needs.

The task force briefly discussed progress in discussion with the BNSF railroad regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian underpass. It was decided that Bill Wocken should forward a communication to the railroad showing the city's conceptual plan for this improvement and asking for the railroad's reaction. Materials from the downtown study and a cross-section drawn by the City Engineering Department will be included in the submittal.

Jason Tomanek reported that the downtown design standards had been recommended by the Planning Commission and that the City Commission would consider them that evening at public hearing.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for June 9, 2015.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.

Reported by Bill Wocken