

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

The Downtown Bismarck Sub Area Plan Implementation Task Force met at 8:30 am on November 10, 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, John Warford, Jim Christianson, Dawn Kopp, Kate Herzog, Larry Oswald, Jason Tomanek and Andrea Travnicek. Also present were Keith Hunke and Bill Wocken.

The minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting were received and approved on the motion of Dawn Kopp with Andrea Travnicek seconding. All present approved of the action.

John Warford opened the meeting noting the first item of business was discussion of the Five South Design Review Committee. Bill Wocken reported that the city had provided three persons to sit on the Five South Design Review Committee per the development agreement for the project. Jason Tomanek, Brady Blaskowski and Linda Oster will be seated along with representatives of the master architect, developer and Bismarck Futures. This committee will conduct design review on all the improvements that will be part of the Five South development. The city has a design review process which will also examine each proposed improvement. Jason Tomanek will report to the Task Force on the committee's work.

The task force next discussed branding efforts for the downtown and for the city. John Warford said there are many examples of branding to review. It can be restricted to the Five South area only or to the entire downtown or city wide. There are many stakeholders who are potentially impacted and the wishes of the City Commission will need to be considered. Jim Christianson questioned whether the task force should aim at branding the entire city or limit itself to the downtown. Larry Oswald said he feels there needs to be an overall brand into which the downtown brand will be inserted. He said we also need to know in what ways the brand will be used and to apply a cost/benefit determination to it. John and Brenda said they would review the branding issue with several commissioners and report back to the task force.

The formation of a Business Improvement District (BID) was discussed next. Dawn Kopp reported that Jeff Ubl had contacted their office and discussed the Five South project's intent to begin a BID in their project area, staying south of Main Avenue. Kate Herzog pointed out that for the downtown area to be a part of that district the included properties would need to be contiguous. There is an option to form multiple BID's or to have a single BID with different services offered in various areas. This item will be discussed further at the next task force meeting.

Bill Wocken reported to the group that the condition of the streets in the downtown had been discussed during the budget review process. This topic was included in a

discussion about the re-design of Chancellor Square and the demonstration project which will provide a three lane Main Avenue. The City Commission will need to review the Main Avenue demonstration project this Spring before it can proceed and it will need to consider the Chancellor Square redesign study before a study RFP can be filed.

In a separate discussion, Bill Wocken said he thought the Quiet Rail project would be getting under way in early 2016. Andrea Travnicek said she will work with Bill Wocken to talk with the BNSF Railroad about the pedestrian underpass on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The Rail Trail committee was actively working on a bicycle route connection between the downtown and the Missouri River. Several grant opportunities were being reviewed. It was suggested the ND Historical Society be invited to the January task force meeting to discuss the cultural trail.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for December 8, 2015.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 am.

Reported by Bill Wocken