

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

February 12, 2024

The first meeting of the Downtown Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 12, 2024. Downtown Committee members present were Tom Karcher, Marc Mays, Scott Moore, Nicole Morris, Kate Niederkohr, and Graham Treadway. Jan Stoneburner was absent.

Others present included: Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Moore, to nominate Mr. Karcher as the Chairperson of the Downtown Committee. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to nominate Mr. Moore as the Vice Chairperson of the Downtown Committee. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Karcher reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Downtown Committee as outlined in Section 6. of Ordinance No. 208-13.

A mission statement prepared by Mrs. Niederkohr was shared and it was decided that this will be reviewed and discussed again at the next Downtown Committee meeting.

Mr. Karcher indicated that the First Thursday event that will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2024 will occur on the Thursday preceding the Solar Eclipse that will take place on Monday, April 8, 2024, and the Chamber of Commerce has inquired with Mayor McColly about allowing food trucks that participate in the First Thursday event to remain set up in the downtown area through the Solar Eclipse.

The establishment of a boundary for the downtown was discussed. Mr. Treadway indicated that he thinks there is a need to more clearly define the boundary of the downtown. The possibility of setting the boundary in conjunction with the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) was suggested. It was also suggested that the Downtown Committee work with the Chamber of Commerce to assist with establishing a boundary for the downtown.

Mr. Treadway presented several questions including: scope of work, permitting, marketing, and what does success look like?

Mrs. Niederkohr reported that the Chamber of Commerce is in the process of taking over obtaining sponsors and ordering cups for DORA. The new cups to be ordered will be 16 ounces and will be delivered prior to the Solar Eclipse.

Mrs. Morris inquired as to whether there will be a theme for the downtown. Members agreed that themes are a possibility.

Mr. Mays indicated that the City of Bellefontaine, Ohio has a “Small Nation” initiative and the Downtown Committee could potentially obtain ideas from discussions with representatives from that community.

Mr. Moore stated that the “Experience Wy” countywide community branding project has been positive.

Mr. Treadway suggested each member review the mission statement and come up with ideas to add to the statement.

A new speaker system in the downtown area was suggested by Mr. Mays as a possible project. Mr. Treadway suggested the possibility of applying for funding through the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) for this project.

The possibility of obtaining façade grants was discussed. It was noted that Mayor McColly has been looking for façade grant funding.

Mrs. Morris inquired about the possibility of painting murals on buildings in the downtown. It was noted that since the buildings are privately owned this would require agreements between building owners and whoever wants to have murals painted.

Mr. Karcher noted that the 30th anniversary of the Shawshank Redemption will be recognized in 2024.

Mr. Treadway noted that 2024 is the 200th anniversary of Old Mission.

Downtown Committee members agreed that they need to figure out how to get businesses involved.

The next meeting of the Downtown Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Tom Karcher, Chairperson