

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

March 11, 2024

The March 11, 2024 Downtown Committee meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Scott Moore, Vice Chairperson. Downtown Committee members present were Marc Mays, Scott Moore, Nicole Morris, Kate Niederkohr, Jan Stoneburner, and Graham Treadway. Tom Karcher was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Colleen Clark, Sweet Seasons Candy Store; Sue Baker, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the February 12, 2024 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Downtown Committee member, were approved as received.

The following ideas/suggestions were discussed regarding Food Trucks and Ordinance No. 189-13 addressing regulations for mobile food vendors within the City:

- Mrs. Colleen Clark, Sweet Seasons Candy Store, suggested more allowable locations, possibly allow food trucks all over the downtown area, or ask brick-and-mortar restaurant owners if they would be willing to sign a waiver to allow food trucks within the one hundred (100) feet designated area of their business that food trucks are currently restricted from.
- It was noted that in 2023 there was a vehicle owner who refused to move their vehicle which resulted in a mobile food vendor not being able to operate. Mr. Moore suggested “No Parking” signs be placed during food truck events. Mr. Mays suggested police order signs indicating “No Parking” be placed during food truck events. Mrs. Sue Baker, Wyandot County Chambers of Commerce, stated that the Chamber of Commerce does place barricades on First Thursday events for mobile food vendors.
- Mr. Treadway indicated that his brother, Kyle Treadway, who owns Traum Brewing, 126 South Sandusky Avenue, wants food trucks to be allowed in front of his business.
- Mrs. Baker stated that the Chamber of Commerce is considering hosting First Thursday events year round.
- Mrs. Baker inquired as to what the fees the City collects from mobile food vendors are used for, if the fees are needed, and how the fee amounts were decided upon. Mrs. Clark suggested the fees be eliminated or reduced. Mrs. Niederkohr indicated that the money collected is to go back into the downtown and a comparison was done with other cities to establish the fees being charged.

Downtown Committee members reviewed Ordinance No. 194-13, creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) for downtown Upper Sandusky. It was noted that pursuant to Section 11. of this ordinance at least one (1) time per year the DORA Committee shall review this Ordinance. The Downtown Committee will serve in the place of DORA Committee and review this Ordinance annually since the DORA Committee no longer exists. Mrs. Baker noted that everyone that the representatives from the Chamber of Commerce have talked to are happy with the DORA, the feedback has been positive. Mrs. Niederkohr thanked the Chamber of Commerce for handling the donations for the purchase of the DORA cups.

Downtown Committee members again discussed a mission statement. Mr. Moore referenced the Ohio Main Street Program. Mr. Treadway presented a draft mission statement for the committee to review, input was given, and Mr. Treadway will work on revisions to the mission statement and this issue will again be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Moore indicated that he had a recent conversation with Mr. Greg Moon, Zoning Inspector, who suggested the Downtown Committee be combined with the Design Review Board, as outlined in Chapter 1327 of the City’s Zoning and Building Regulations. It was noted that since November 1994 when the Design Review Board was created, the board has never met and there are currently no appointments to this board.

Mrs. Stoneburner reported that she is in charge of the Star Theater’s upcoming membership drive. Mrs. Stoneburner noted that permission has been given by the City to close the alley adjacent to the Star Theater for “Rally in the Alley” events to be held every Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the month of May 2024. Activities during the events will include live entertainment and food. Mrs. Stoneburner stated that the building owners along the north end of the north/south alley, south of West Wyandot Avenue, have given permission to install Edison lights along this alleyway. A donor has offered to pay for the purchase of the lights. Downtown Committee members agreed that an electrician should be hired to install these lights. Mrs. Stoneburner inquired about acquiring a different dumpster that has wheels from the City or having the dumpster located near the Star Theater moved during the Thursday evening events. Mayor McColly will discuss this matter with Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor. Mrs. Stoneburner indicated that Star Theater displays will be placed in downtown store front windows during the month of May 2024.

Downtown Committee members discussed rescheduling their next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024 due to this being the day of the Solar Eclipse. Mrs. Niederkohr noted that the Park Board is moving their regularly scheduled April 8, 2024 meeting to Thursday, April 11, 2024 to be held at the swimming pool in Harrison Smith Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. Downtown Committee members agreed to reschedule their April 8, 2024 meeting to Thursday, April 11, 2024 to be held in Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Scott Moore, Vice Chairperson