



## **Downtown Pittsburg Advisory Board**

**January 28, 2019 | 6PM Agenda**

**Meeting Location:** Block 22 | Broadway St | Pittsburg, KS 66762

**Members Present:** Michael Fienen, Zac Dickey, Larry Fields, Heather Horton, Amy Sawyer

**Others Present:** Sydney Anselmi, Brittan Brenner, Jay Byers, Crista Cunningham, Quentin Holmes, Dick Horton, Tim Kundiger, Kim Vogel

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Confirm 12.17.18 Minutes
  - Sawyers motions, Horton seconds
    - Final Vote: 5-0-0
- Bird Control Downtown
  - Horton: The people at PSU are worried that there are too many species to regulate. According to the company, they won't hurt any other birds. PSU doesn't like the birth control option.
  - Fienen: There is another option that makes the birds uncomfortable. It comes in different forms: liquids, gels, pebbles.
  - Fields: Fish and Game would like to talk to PSU folks to bring in the hawks. Fish and Game doesn't like the birth control either.
    - Fienen: How many hawks would we need?
      - Fields: One hawk can eat up to 10 pigeons a day.
  - Fienen: Let's let PSU and Fish and Game work together to do something downtown. Anselmi will reach out to Fish & Game as PSU and loop them in with Delia Lister.

- Common Consumption
  - Fielen: We have to renew our common consumption license annually.
    - Byers will renew the license on behalf of the board.
  - Fielen: Marketing materials to take to the bar owners to educate them would be helpful.
    - Brenner: Send out an email to bar-owners notifying of renewal and opportunity to participate.
- Committee Organization [Marketing, Events, Infrastructure]
  - Fielen: Consolidation of Marketing Committee and Events Committee. The Events Committee has been inactive for quite some time.
    - Anselmi: The confusion came in that the Events Committee did not put on events, they helped other people put on their own events. They provided a “how-to” guide to putting on an event.
  - Fielen: Should we combine the Marketing and Events, absorb the Events Committee, or rename them all.
    - Anselmi: At one point the Events Committee came together to bring all the Downtown Business owners together. This should happen a couple times a year even if things with the committee changed.
      - Fielen: We could do one in Early Spring and one in Late Fall.
  - Sawyer moves to absorb the Events Committee and grow the Marketing Committee, Dickey seconds.
    - Final Vote: 5-0-0

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Road Diets
  - Fielen: Looking at opportunities to create more bike lanes and making the city more walkable.

- Brenner: Conversations with a Commissioner led to the resurgence of road diets on Broadway.
  - Vogel: The City had a plan completed for Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan that suggested decreasing lanes on Broadway with one each way and a center turn lane.
    - D. Horton: It's important to mention that previously, we built and planned for cars. That mentality is shifting back to planning for people.
- Fienen: Where would the bike lanes go?
  - Vogel: Reverse angle parking along the curb with bikes inside the traffic. It moves much more traffic.
- D. Horton: For the sake of efficiency, a meeting where DAB and ATAB work together to discuss this and get a better idea of what should happen. The next ATAB Meeting is next Tuesday at Noon at City Hall.
- Certified Local Government [Kansas Historical Society]
  - Brenner: When looking at resources available through a partnership with the Kansas Historical Society, becoming a CLG is the first step to gaining access to said resources. We have many of the pieces in play for this, we just need to formalize it all. We would need to amend the DAB ordinance to include historic preservation to its responsibilities. We would also sign an Agreement with the Kansas Historical Society/National Parks Service.
  - Fienen: Concerns regarding property outside the Downtown Overlay District, should DAB be able to weigh in on those?
    - Byers: Right now, there isn't enough happening outside the Downtown Overlay District that justifies another entire board.

- Horton: What's an example of what they would ask of us?
  - Brenner: Say Larry buys a house in a neighborhood and submits it to be placed on the national register, but he doesn't have a lot of information on the home. The State Board could call you all, as the preservation board, to ask your opinion of the historic value of Larry's property. The board acts in an advisory role to the State.
  - Fields: The beauty in this is that it doesn't force property owners to do anything. Even if a building is on the historic register, if its privately owned it can be torn down. Only City—owned or non-profit owned property on the historic register can be contested upon demolition.
- Fields moves to move forward with establishing a CLG, Sawyer seconds.
  - Final Vote: 5-0-0
- Historic Preservation Fund Grant
  - Brenner: This goes along with the CLG conversation. Another perk of being a CLG is that you get extra points on your grant applications. I have a few ideas for grants I am going to apply for through this program this year:
    - Structural Integrity is vital to our Downtown Buildings and something the Community Development office is working on constantly. I plan to ask for \$20,000 to put towards infrastructure improvements. I could then ask the EDAC for matching funds. We would then establish a grant program for \$1-\$1 funds to improve the infrastructural needs of buildings.

- Another idea is to hire an engineer or architect to work on retainer for Downtown Property owners. It has been expressed that these costs are deterrents for some owners to know what improvements to make to their buildings, this could help.
  - The final idea is for a Downtown Survey. This would give us a stock of all our buildings in the Downtown area. In Greensburg, after the tornado, they didn't have any documentation of what their Downtown looked like, so they didn't know what to rebuild. This is just a good way to know what you have and get an idea of how you got it.
- Fields: Use Pitt State as much as you can. They're doing engineering work for me right now. They help a lot and are looking for projects.
- Art Walk Marketing Assistance
  - Cunningham: Most of our advertising is posters, ¼ page flyers, and smaller handouts. We are requesting anything you can give to help. This would cover costs for both the spring and fall event.
    - Anselmi: I believe last year when we assisted it was around \$300-\$500.
    - Brenner: Talk to Jamie to find out how much was spent last year.
  - Horton moves to support up to \$500 for advertising costs, Fields seconds.
    - Final Vote: 5-0-0

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- John Minton Membership

- Fiener: He has another board that meets at this time, so he will have to resign his seat.
- Byers: Take previous applicants and have the Commission decide.
- Brenner: Will contact previous applicants to see if still interested. Will post application for new applicants as well.
- Hotel Besse:
  - Byers: The Besse was sold at sheriff's sale last Tuesday, January 22, 2019 for \$2,500. The sale has yet to be finalized by the courts.
- New Businesses in Downtown
  - Brenner: Whenever Andrea in Building Services gets a business license inside the Downtown Overlay, she sends a copy to us and we put them on the Downtown Email list.
  - Horton: Sends cupcakes, it's hard to know when a new one comes.
  - Fiener: On February 4<sup>th</sup> he will walk downtown and introduce himself to downtown businesses. Will attend Chamber Coffees as well when they are in the Downtown Overlay District.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street Follow-Up
  - Dickey: Ran into Kyle Mullen, what exactly happened after the Bensters didn't complete their timelines?
    - Holmes: The building was offered back to 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bar & Grill, they chose not to acquire it as they had other projects in the works at that time.

Sawyer moves to adjourn, Horton seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM