

Minutes of Neenah Central City Business Improvement District Board
August 15, 2023 – 8:00 am
Neenah City Hall – Council Chambers

PRESENT: Board Members: Alex Wenzel, Michelle Bauer, George Brownell, Robert Wedge, Alex Noskowiak, John Skyrms, Bob Gillespie, Tori Dorn, LeAnn Wasinger and Christine Rondeau. Also present: Executive Director Brent Bowman (FNI), Office Coordinator Michelle Dunning (FNI), Officer Joe Benoit (NPD), Mayor Jane Lang, and Community Development Specialist Samantha Jefferson (City of Neenah Community Development).

Approve minutes of August 15, 2023 meeting: MSC Gillespie/Noskowiak, the BID Board to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 BID Board meeting. Motion passed.

Public Appearances: Officer Joe Benoit spoke to the BID members regarding:

- 1) Parking Ramp: Officer Benoit explained that electric scooters, bikes and skateboards are not allowed in the ramp by city ordinance. Patrol officers do regular checks and there are cameras in the ramp live-streaming to the PD. However, he encouraged that if anyone sees something, please call PD.
- 2) Suspicious customers: Officer Benoit said business owners should call 911 when there is a suspicious customer.
- 3) Cars stopping for pedestrians: In Wisconsin, cars must stop for pedestrians in designated crosswalks, however they do not have to stop for pedestrians trying to cross outside of the crosswalk. It is not illegal, however, for pedestrians to cross the street anywhere as the city does not have an ordinance regarding jaywalking.
- 4) Theft of items in cars: Officer Benoit explained that the city does not have problems with people forcibly breaking into car to get items but they have had people checking to see if doors are locked and then stealing from unlocked vehicles. He encouraged everyone to lock their car doors.
- 5) Pulling into an angled parking space from the opposite lane: this is technically legal if the driver does not need to then pull out and readjust the vehicle (if they can do it in one motion).

Financials:

Bills for Approval: MSC Gillespie/Dorn, the BID Board to approve the bill packet for \$35,729.19. Motion passed.

Budget Status Report: The only major bill this month is administrative fees.

Executive Committee:

Thank you of the Month: the BID Board thanks Excelion Partners for expanding their business and remaining in the downtown. They are moving into the space above Smile Creations.

Member Gillespie gave a big thank you to Sara Hanneman (Future Neenah) for all of her hard work and dedication to FNI and the downtown.

BID Board members are encouraged to start their 2024 wish lists for the 2024 BID operating plan/budget.

Fall Exec Committee Meeting – Scheduled for September

Retention & Recruitment Committee:

No meeting, No Report.

Maintenance Committee:

Report from September 13 Meeting: Dumpsters on Church Street are going well and kept cleaner than usual. The Marketplace Lot should be completed within the next couple of weeks. Trees may need to be rewrapped with lights and a new plan made due to the storms that happened this summer. Three wooden benches were stained and sealed by volunteers. The welcome monument by Dairy Queen will be sealed this year. Halloween and Christmas décor will be put up in the alley this year. Snow removal changes were discussed especially considering the new library bumpouts. Ramp repairs will be happening this month. The co-op meeting is scheduled for October 17th from 8-10 a.m. – location TBD. Future Neenah is working to create a lighting plan to light the downtown.

Update from Aug. 17 Neenah Transit Meeting: Members Gillespie and Skyrms were at this meeting. They explained feedback that was communicated from attendees to Valley Transit. Moving the transfer center from the downtown affects routes throughout the Fox Valley and this will take time to consider and plan (if that is what will happen).

Review '21 Co-Op Partners Plan: Plans were given to members to review before the co-op meeting in October.

Member Gillespie thanked the City of Neenah for their work on the Marketplace lot

Public Relations and Marketing Committee:

Lions Tail Octoberfest – September 22/23; Wine Walk – September 30; Last Farmers Market of the Season – October 14; Pre-Holiday Gift Certificate Rewards (BID) – November 3-4; Small Business Saturday – November 25; A Very Neenah Christmas – December 1.

Report from September 14: FNI talked with the PD after the end of summer concert and there were no issues with the DORA policy. Member Gillespie mentioned that he did hear criticism about how early the roads were shut down. Executive Director Bowman said that they will be working with Public Works and PD next year to try and help that situation. Otherwise, everyone only heard great feedback about the concert.

City of Neenah Updates:

Member Skyrms discussed the city's budget cycle and explained what is happening in the coming months. He said that the city will have significant challenges with budget this year. There is a new position in the Mayor's office who will be helping with PR and marketing for the city.

Future Neenah Updates: Executive Director Bowman revealed that FNI will be holding a gala in November (the location will be a secret until closer to the event). Tickets go on sale on Monday. Murals have been painted on the doors at Shattuck Park.

Announcements and future agenda items: Next Meeting – October 17 Co-Op Partners Meeting, 8-10 a.m., location TBD

The Board adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Jefferson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Samantha Jefferson
Community Development Specialist, Community Development