

Minutes of Meeting
Newton Downtown SSMID Board
Via Zoom & City Website: www.newtongov.org

March 8, 2022

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

R. O'Brien; J. Maki; A. Leber; M. Pryke

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist; Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street Executive Director

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Chair O'Brien.

Review of Minutes. The Minutes of the SSMID Board Meeting on February 8, 2022 were reviewed and approved. MOTION by Leber, seconded by Pryke. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

Finance Report. The February 28, 2022 Finance Report was reviewed and approved. MOTION by Pryke, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

New Business.

a. Other. None.

Old Business.

a. Discussion on merging SSMID & Main Street. Yeager recapped the Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls formats for SSMID districts operating in tandem with the communities' Main Street programs. Yeager recommended that Main Street submit projects to the SSMID board and for the board to review and approve projects only pertaining to the SSMID district. There was general agreement of this approach by SSMID board members.

b. SSMID/Main Street proposal (O'Brien). MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Pryke, as follows: The SSMID board shall meet quarterly (January, April, July, October) for approval and oversight of projects within the SSMID district brought to the SSMID board by the Main Street board, and to address issues and projects brought to the SSMID board's attention by business and property owners with the SSMID district. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

c. SSMID projects – FY 21-22: Purchase trash receptacles, benches and flower pots – timing, bids. Yeager inventoried the existing 12 trash receptacles: 4 round top; 6 covered top; 2 flat top. Yeager will present design and costs of trash receptacles and benches at the April quarterly SSMID board meeting.

d. Other. Armstrong requested direction with respect to district clean-up and plant watering services. MOTION by Leber, seconded by Maki, directing Armstrong to renew the contract with Randy Ray for another year at the same prices and terms as in 2021. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

City Report: Hotel Maytag restaurant – update. Armstrong reported that Pryke would not be able to sign a lease for the former Midtown Café restaurant and that Hotel Maytag Investors was actively seeking a replacement tenant. Yeager and Armstrong assisted St. Croix Hospice in locating a downtown office space.

Lighting Round: Yeager reported that Main Street volunteers are working on Trivia Night and Progressive Dinner promotions and that Uncle Nancy's alleyway projects are in the planning stages.

Meeting Adjournment: At 8:40 a.m. – MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).