

**Minutes of Meeting
Newton Downtown SSMID Board
Commumny Development Office – Building 18 in Legacy Plaza
5th Floor, Large Conference Room**

August 9, 2022

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

R. O'Brien; J. Maki; J. Prendergast

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chair O'Brien.

Review of Minutes. The Minutes of the SSMID Board Meeting on May 10, 2022 were reviewed and approved. MOTION by Maki, seconded by Prendergast. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

Finance Report. The July 31, 2022 Finance Report was reviewed and approved. MOTION by Prendergast, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

New Business.

a. Prospective appointees to SSMID board. Board members discussed and agreed upon a list of individuals to be approached about their willingness to serve on the SSMID board. These individuals are female, as the person being replaced is also female. The names & businesses of potential board members and the board or staff member responsible for the initial contact are as follows: Samantha Forbes (Forbes Office Supply – O'Brien); Marilyn Terlouw (Randy's Construction, Inc., etc. – Maki); Lori Yoakum (Crazy Red Head Quilting – Prendergast); Alida Anderson (Hotel Maytag Apartments – Armstrong). The list of those who are willing to serve will be submitted to Mayor Hansen for selection and subsequent approval by City Council.

b. Other. None.

Old Business.

a. Discussion on SSMID projcets – FY 22-23: Christmas Decorations. The current group of lighted Christmas Decorations will remain in the corner of Prendergast's warehouse until they are installed for the upcoming holiday season. When they are removed after the holidays, they will need to be stored in another location for the off-season. Nick Cummins had previously offered the basement of the Maytag Park caretakers house and Maki agreed to talk with Nate Van Maanen to see if they have storage space and could also be responsible for installation. MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Prendergast, for the SSMID board to spend up to \$800.00 for storage and installation of the lighted Christmas Decorations. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

b. Downtown Beautification Infrastructure (flags, benches, flower pots, etc.) – Update. O'Brien agreed to check with Erin Yeager on the status of flags purchased by Main Street and report to the SSMID board members. New benches were purchased and paid for by SSMID (as agreed), with installation in the next two weeks. Flower pots were ordered but have not been delivered or invoiced . . . O'Brien will provide an update to SSMID board members after verifying the status of the project with Yeager.

c. Other. Bunkers. Armstrong agreed to check with the County on the status of the bunker removal project. Maki suggested that if the bunkers were to remain indefinitely, a coat of colored epoxy should be considered, which would greatly improve their appearance. Maki agreed to check on pricing for such an epoxy treatment and report to the SSMID board members. Prendergast stated that an alternative would be for the SSMID

board to offer to partially pay for the removal of the bunkers if the County would agree to replace them with a concrete pad. Armstrong will check with the County on the feasibility of that concept.

Lighting Round: Prendergast reported that DDNA members will be meeting later in the week of August 8-12 and were preparing for very busy fall and holiday seasons. Armstrong reported that the PGI convention brought an estimated \$3+ million economic impact on Newton and Jasper County. Both SSMID board retailers (O'Brien and Prendergast) reported outstanding sales for the week that PGI was in town.

Meeting Adjournment: At 9:05 a.m. – MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).