

Downtown Improvement Committee

City Hall Room 208
Friday, January 12th, 2018

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Welcome

A regular meeting of the Nashua Downtown Improvement Committee was called to order at 7:46 A.M. on January 12th, 2017 in Nashua City Hall, Room 208 by Rich Lannan.

Present: Rich Lannan, John Koutsos, Amanda Schneck, Ron LaFleur, Sy Mahfuz, James Tobin, Simon Sarris, Alderman Brian McCarthy, Alderman Ernest Jette, Director Tim Cummings
Members of the Public: Lisa Bissonnette, Racheal Gualco, Steve Saxe, Paul Shea, Don Higgins, Allegra Boverman
City of Nashua Staff: James Vayo

2. Approval of December 1st, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY A. SCHNECK TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1ST MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY S. SARRIS AND APPROVED WITH CHANGES.

3. ArtVentures / City Arts Nashua

R. Gualco provides a summary of the City Arts Nashua request for \$25k in funds for the proposed 2018 ArtVentures project.

S. Mahfuz asks if City Arts Nashua has sought any funding from private donors since the last presentation of the project.

R. Gualco states no fundraising activities have taken place.

J. Koutsos asks how much funding was provided to ArtVentures for last year's project.

J. Vayo notes ArtVentures was provided \$20k for the Comeback Kitchen Table project.

S. Mahfuz asks if the committee could hold this discussion for a few minutes and discuss the wayfinding package.

4. Update on Wayfinding Sign Package

R. Lannan provides the committee with information on communication between R. Lannan and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Lisa Fauteux. R. Lannan states that DPW has committed to installing 50% of the signs from the wayfinding package. Which will allow the City of Nashua to execute on the fabrication work now.

J. Vayo provides the committee with a revised scope of work from LH Companies and a summary of how the fabrication work would be executed and delivered to the City of Nashua.

J. Vayo notes he will be forming a new scope of work for an RPF to install the 50% of signs which will not be installed by the DPW. He also states that a few signs have been removed from the scope to control fabrication costs.

S. Sarris asks how much surplus parking revenue is available to fund committee recommendations.

S. Mahfuz states he believes the revenue is approximately \$130k, unsure how much is earmarked.

J. Koutsos asks that an available funds summary be provided to aid the discussion at the next meeting as he would like to motion for providing funds for the wayfinding package.

S. Sarris asks if any committee members are opposed to funding the wayfinding signage at \$50k

Alderman E. Jette asks if the signs are large enough to reach at any distance.

R. LaFleur states he was part of the working group which worked with the design consultants who developed the wayfinding package. He notes the design is much better than the previous wayfinding package.

R. Lannan notes that the signs can be modified inexpensively in the future to accommodate the need for wayfinding to the performing arts center.

S. Mahfuz expresses a sense of responsibility for making recommendations for spending the surplus parking revenue.

J. KOUTSOS MOTIONS TO RECOMMEND \$50K IN SURPLUS PARKING REVENUE BE USED TO FUND THE WAYFINDING SIGN PACKAGE. MOTION SECONDED BY S. MAHFUZ, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ArtVentures / City Arts Nashua II

R. Lannan asks J. Vayo if he can provide a funds summary for the February meeting.

S. Mahfuz asks if we have earmarked approximately \$100k of the \$130k. R. Lannan affirms.

J. Tobin believes future projects should have more of a craft focus, would like to see City Arts Nashua come back with another request for the next funding cycle, and notes a need for private fundraising.

S. Sarris asks if a motion to reject funding for ArtVentures should be entertained now.

S. Mahfuz wishes to see initiative to obtain private funding to make it more of a cooperative effort.

R. Lannan give an example of cooperative funding efforts through Great American Downtown.

R. Lafleur reiterated the value of creative partnerships to execute projects.

Alderman Brandon Laws expresses an appreciation for the fiscal conservancy of the committee.

S. SARRIS MOTIONS TO REJECT THE \$20K FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE 2018 ART VENTURES POEMS PROJECT PROPOSED BY ARTVENTURES. MOTION SECONDED BY S. MAHFUZ, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Other Business

R. Lannan introduces new Alderman Brandon Laws as committee Liaison.

S. Saxe notes that 3 quotes have been provided for various scenarios of banner replacement.

S. Mahfuz requests that a full banner package be presented to the committee in February for consideration.

J. Vayo notes he will prepare a package on behalf of the committee for consideration, notes the artist for the Broad Street Parkway Banner Art is present with a draft of his concept for the banners.

D. Higgins provides a description of the concept for banner art, presents draft of artwork, lists the various types of characters which are present on the banners.

Committee members discuss the art and provide a general consensus for the concept.

7. Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJORN THE MEETING BY S. SARRIS AT 8:55AM. SECONDED BY J. KOUTSOS, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The next meeting: February 9th, 2018 at 7:45am, City Hall Room 208