



**MEETING MINUTES**

Prusakowski called the meeting to order at 8:35 am and welcomed members. Members present: David Prusakowski, Elaine Abercrombie, Bryan Shealy, Connie Sams, Megan Watters, Randy Quick, and Tayesha Lytle. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Patrick Van Der Horn, and Meredith Ulmer.

**ACTION**

**Minutes** – Shealy made a motion to accept minutes. Abercrombie and Sams second to accept. All were in agreeance.

**2022 Work Plan Input Activities** – Lesley stated she would like to revisit the current work plan based on feedback from the community, downtown merchants, and the board. Lesley does not see it being a complete overhaul. Lesley then handed out a survey to all board members to fill out individually. Lesley mentioned that the community survey had received a much higher response this year in comparison to last year. Committee members were then asked to give their input on several subjects (public art, downtown safety, downtown cleanliness, grants, parking) through participating in an activity. It was suggested that the DDA partner with the Chamber and Office of Tourism more. Lesley agreed and stated that she planned to attend more of their board meetings to find opportunities to collaborate. Beautification and cleanliness were in the fore front of the conversation. Abercrombie mentioned that the garbage cans not only look bad, but also leak all over the sidewalks. Prusakowski stated that sidewalks are in desperate need of being pressure washed. Lesley asked what businesses the board thinks are needed downtown. Lytle thinks the biggest issue is a generational gap and brought up that Cheeky Baby was partnering with The Rabbit’s Nest to help teach them new, modern ways of marketing and doing business. Prusakowski said he believed more entertainment spaces are needed downtown. Lesley went over data from the community survey. Data shows a lack of diversity downtown. The DDA would like to reach out to different groups to find out why there is a lack of different races visiting downtown. No committee feedback on Merchant Mornings. Lesley stated she’d like to target more of the restaurants and would like to figure out a better time to get them together. BID budget discussion – Prusakowski asked if the way the funds are allocated are the best and if the committee needs to revisit this. Per Abercrombie, there are by-laws that state where the budget money needs to be allocated and also cannot be spent on things that the city is supposed to provide funds for. Lesley asked where the committee would like to see more money spent. The overall agreement was on beautification projects. Grants – Lytle suggested that those that have received a grant can nominate other businesses for grants, in order to help get the word out about what’s available. Prusakowski said there needs to be more educating business owners on the grants available to them. Downtown Events – committee would like to see a different range of events, from big to small scale. Prusakowski suggested more art events for local artists. Diversity of restaurants was discussed. Public art – Watters believes there needs to be a structure to assigning locations for public art. There also needs to be an approval process. Security of public art is also a concern – recent installations at the ECO center had been vandalized. Downtown cleanliness – issues with the trails where homeless people stay. Their belongings are everywhere and left behind once that person is relocated. Broken beer bottles and chicken wings along Broad Street are an issue. Mission and vision were briefly discussed. Lesley wrapped up the meeting by reviewing what was discussed and how to move forward.

**DISCUSSION**

**Dining District Open Container Update** – No discussion.

**Committee Reports** – No discussion.

**Staff Reports** – No discussion.

**Other/Adjourn** – No discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aundi Lesley