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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 20, 2016 at noon
Claremont Savings Bank Community Room

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

President Tom Heron called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. In attendance: Executive Director Stephen Plunkard, Tom Heron, Mary Perry, Sandy MacGillivray, Buddy Dexter, Carolyn Lane, Bonny Andrews, Carol Eramo, Barbara Sanderson, Jeff Taft-Dick, Alan Woodbury, Caitlin Christiana, Jason Rasmussen, Walter Martone.

Minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

Financial Review – Buddy reported that we would receive our \$20,000 from the town on Friday. We will then be in good financial shape. Tom Heron indicated that this funding has been stagnant for years; we may consider asking the town for an increased commitment and show the community that they are getting a “good bang for their buck.”

Committee Reports

Design Report – Alan Woodbury reported a number of “old business” items: The post office will have windows replaced in 2017; the lobby may be painted. Parks and Rec building has new front doors, and other improvements have been identified. The parks will be put to bed soon; more color will be added. The large gear on the face of 100 River Street will be refurbished by late October when the windows are washed. The fun, artistic bikes have been put into storage; more junk bikes are available. Discussion is taking place re: the theater plaza – tables, chairs, umbrellas and increased visibility. Brad Veysey, who approached us about “graffiti art” on buildings, has connected with the schools’ art departments as well as Andy Bladyka at Parks and Rec; after a survey of students, a mural will be painted on the pool house at Riverside.

Promotion – Buddy will have a complete financial report of the Market Madness Street Fair by next meeting. Sandy met with JoAnne Bohen to plan for the holiday program downtown, which will take place on **Friday, December 2**, and will meet with Caitlin at the Chamber on Monday, October 31 to coordinate the event.

Economic Development – Carolyn reported that they have had one committee meeting since Carol Lighthall left. Projects are going ahead e.g. Woolson Block, Handy building, granary, etc. Our executive director will participate.

Old/New Business

Partner Updates:

Caitlin reported that the Chamber’s Apple Festival was very successful with an awesome turnout on a beautiful day; attendance and revenues were up. Caitlin celebrated her one-year anniversary with the Chamber. There will be an evaluation of their projects. Candidates’ night was live streamed on Facebook! The October mixer was held at Black River Produce, which coincidentally included remarks about its sale to Reinhart by current and future owners. “Nothing will change.” Caitlin mentioned a revolutionary town grant of \$500,000 based on why Springfield should be awarded the grant. School students should be included. Tom asked if there was cooperation with area chambers; other than quarterly state meetings, there have been no other formal communications. It was suggested that regional “trails” might be proposed, e.g. museums, antiques, art, culinary, beer so that more people would be drawn to the area.

Walter explained the newly proposed regulations covering rooming houses vs. transitional housing. He encouraged attendance at the Monday, 10/24 select board meeting at 7 p.m. as the downtown needs appropriate neighbors.

Jason reported that the proposed bike path extension has received monies for design and construction as has the brown field cleanup on Clinton Street. Konrad Prefab has located in the Jones building on Clinton Street. Zoning issues received by Jason are sent on to our local zoning administrator Bill Kearns.

Other Business

Sandy reported that membership is up to \$6,515 with 75 members. Buddy suggested another membership mailing go out regarding our new executive director.

Buddy asked if SOM wanted to participate for the third year in the SOM/Chamber/Rotary raffle where profits are divided among the three groups. There was general agreement to participate. Buddy was commended for his hard work on this endeavor.

There will be a Meet and Greet Stephen Plunkard at the Hartness House on Friday, October 28, from 5-6:30 p.m. including hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Dinner following is an opportunity, as the Inn serves dinner on Fridays and Saturdays as well as a Sunday brunch from 11-2.

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday, November 10th at noon at Claremont Savings Bank community room. This is a change this month due to Festival of Trees (November 18th) and Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.