

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY DOWNTOWN BOARD
& ST. ALBANS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013

5:30 PM
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL
100 NORTH MAIN STREET

APPROVED MARCH 19, 2013

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Gamache (Chair), Jeff Bean, Mike Blouin, Katy Collin, Sharon Holcomb, John Holzscheiter, Laz Scangas, Jim Walsh, Jeff Young.

Board Members Absent: Dominic Cloud (non-voting), Tim Hawkins, Sandy Mayotte, Mike McCarthy.

Staff Present: Chip Sawyer, Marty Manahan

Public Present: Peter Ford, David Barber, Tara L'Esperance.

1. Call to Order

Chair Elizabeth Gamache called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Downtown Program Update

Program Update was distributed in meeting packet. No questions or discussion.

3. Introduction of Director of Business Development

Marty Manahan was introduced as the new Director of Business Development.

4. Update on financial status of St. Albans for the Future

Treasurer Sandy Mayotte was not present to give a report. Chip Sawyer commented that there were no major changes to finances.

5. Project Updates

a. Streetscape Project

Chip Sawyer explained that the Streetscape Project was set to resume on or around April 1. Two public meetings were planned for stakeholders on 2/27 at 6pm and 3/1 at 8:30am at City Hall. Sawyer explained that the trenching work for new sewer and stormwater lines could limit access to some Downtown doorways for 2-4 days. Sawyer also explained that the first section of the covered pedestrian walk-way and the entire TD Bank canopy would be removed in order to eliminate structures over the sidewalk.

Jeff Bean suggested that offices with limited front access be allowed to use empty storefronts to do business.

John Holzscheiter suggested that the program create quick “Enter in Back” signs for businesses.

Laz Scangas asked if sidewalk sales could be done in Taylor Park for affected businesses.

Discussion ensued on all ideas.

b. Taylor Park Fountain

Chip Sawyer gave a brief update on the Taylor Park Fountain Restoration Project.

6. Committee Updates

a. Design – No report

b. Economic Restructuring – Scheduling a first meeting with Marty Manahan.

c. Organization – No report

d. Promotion – Update on the distribution of the Event Survey and the Franklin County Quilt Show coming up on April 6-7, 2013.

7. Bylaw and Ordinance Revisions Proposed to City Council

Chip Sawyer described two Downtown-related rule changes that would be presented to the City Council on March 11, 2013. The first would be a change to the City’s zoning to allow for a more streamlined business sign review process. The second would be the adoption prior recommendations to make the effective times of 2 ½ hour parking Downtown from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. There was minimal discussion.

8. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Jeff Young to approve the minutes of the 01/15/13 meeting as presented.
Seconded by Jim Walsh and approved with all in favor.**

9. Other Business

Jeff Bean mentioned that the Design Cmte. should get together to discuss Streetscape issues and updates.

Jim Walsh asked if Channel 15 could tape Streetscape outreach meetings.

Elizabeth Gamache mentioned a WPTZ Channel 5 “Town Hall Meeting” upcoming on 2/28/13 at the Museum and that VPR radio has expressed an interest in visiting to see the progress of initiatives in the City.

Jeff Young publicized Gardening Night Out in Taylor Park on May 22, 2013 and gave an update on the Park rain garden project.

Elizabeth Gamache invited all Board members to take part in a Tax Increment Financing informational show on Channel 15 on 2/21/13 at 6:30pm. A general discussion on TIF outreach ensued.

10. Public Comment

Peter Ford wished to discuss the Ace Hardware development project at the corner of Main and Congress Streets, which had recently received a land use permit. Ford asked if the scale and

scope of the project warranted discussion by the Downtown Board. There was a general discussion about the Downtown Board's role in reviewing projects or setting a general tone. David Barber stated that there should be a priority on rehabilitating the ornamental aspects of the Taylor Park Fountain, rather than worrying about the water feature. Barber also stated that flocking crows are a problem in the Park.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Jeff Young to adjourn at 6:48 PM. Seconded by Jim Walsh and approved unanimously.