

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY DOWNTOWN BOARD
& ST. ALBANS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012
5:30 PM
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL
100 NORTH MAIN STREET
APPROVED: NOVEMBER 20, 2012

Board Members Present:

Elizabeth Gamache (Chair), Jeff Bean, Dominic Cloud (non-voting), Peter Ford, Tim Hawkins, Mike McCarthy, Laz Scangas, Jim Walsh, and Jeff Young.

Board Members Absent:

Mike Blouin, Katy Collin, Sandy Mayotte, John Holzscheiter.

Staff Present: Chip Sawyer, Tamira Martel, Bonnie Lyons, Leanne Tingay (State).

Public Present: None.

1. Call to Order

Chair Liz Gamache called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

2. Introduction of Downtown Manager Tamira Martel

Tamira introduced herself to the Board and discussed her background, experience and excitement to get started.

3. Downtown Program Update

Program update was handed out before meeting. There were no questions or comments.

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

No change in SAFF finances.

5. Committee Updates

a. Design

Scheduled a Nov 1 meeting to focus on Taylor Park. There was an extensive discussion on City's plans to repair the Taylor Park Fountain. Discussion of when fundraising campaign begins and whether an ad hoc campaign committee will be formed. No decisions made.

b. Promotions

Discussed upcoming events and Streetscape Project communications. Point was made to see if merchants could stay open late for 12/6 Running of the Bells Event.

c. Economic Restructuring

Committee is eager to have first meeting with Tamira and tackle issue of empty storefronts. Contact had been made with TD Bank for use of their 2nd and 3rd floors with access via American House. No major developments yet.

d. Organization

Discussed meeting earlier in the day with Leanne Tingay. Looking to work on an appropriations policy. Liz Gamache noted that the City Council had shifted all Downtown Board member terms to end on December 31 of their expiration year.

6. VT Downtown Program Assessment Review and Discussion

Leanne Tingay facilitated the Assessment portion of the evening by asking what members thought was “awesome” about Downtown St. Albans and what desired accomplishments would be in 2013. Also asked about biggest challenges. Lengthy discussion ensued. Results will be summarized in the State’s Assessment report.

7. Project Updates

a. Streetscape

There were compliments on Weston’s management of the project site. The likely February arrival of the streetlights for the northeast block was discussed. There was some worry that the block may be too dark at night, but it was later witnessed that adequate light is being provided from remaining streetlights. There is a need to install more visuals of the final product around the project area.

8. Approval of Minutes – D&V

Motion by Jeff Young to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2012, meeting. Seconded by Jim Walsh and approved unanimously.

9. Other Business

Liz Gamache stated that there may be a need for a City-wide strategy for peddler’s licenses. More guidelines are needed. This was assigned to the Organization Committee for discussion.

Jeff Bean stated that there may be a need to discuss usage of Taylor Park by the Farmer’s Market. Concerns include grass damage, power usage and changes due to Streetscape.

Chip Sawyer shared information on the November networking meeting in Newport that would be attended by Tamira Martel and himself.

Liz Gamache and Chip Sawyer discussed public outreach plans for the upcoming 11/6 TIF debt ceiling vote.

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Jeff Young to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM. Seconded by Jim Walsh and approved unanimously.