



Visioning & Civic Relations Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 3rd @ 10:15am

Chair: Aaron Wedra

Co-Chair: Dawn Coder

Location: via Zoom

1. Welcome / Attendance
 - a. Board: Aaron Wedra, Dawn Coder
 - b. Staff: Brett Maresca
 - c. Other Attendees: Sumei Yee
2. Review of Minutes & Agenda
 - a. September meeting minutes (approved; October meeting was cancelled)
 - i. All in favor
 - b. November meeting agenda (approved)
 - i. All in favor
3. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment
4. Programs & Projects
 - a. G Street Activation Project
 - i. City hosted October 4th charrette with the design architect firm named Psomas. There were a lot of visual design options, but nothing specific is being proposed. They are looking for feedback (survey form available online as of 11/2) from the community about the G Street Activation project.
 1. Brett followed up with City and Diane, but hasn't received feedback or results yet.
 2. No significant movement on the project as of 11/3.
 3. Brett hopes there will be specific options to go to council and the project can begin.
 4. Dawn pointed out that there was only one company presenting all the options which could lead to bias
 5. Brett explained that the process for the city to get an approved vendor is a long process and it took several months to even get the one design firm in place that is presenting.
 6. Dawn believes that it would be beneficial to have multiple vendors for comparison and to be able to choose the best option. One

company is getting all the money and not having to step up to any competition

7. Brett mentioned that the firm for now is presenting the designs, but the vendors and bids will be handled separately and by the individual downtown businesses themselves. He will be following up to see how much control they will have beyond the designs and the money going towards this specific part of the project. The budget still hasn't been 100% finalized. It's projected to be no more than 1.1 million. About \$100K has already been spent on some other things concerning the project so there is concern of how much of the budget is going to the consulting firm.
 8. Dawn shared that she'd imagine that giving the opportunity to more companies would have helped keep the budget down and also give the community more to choose from rather than having one company be able to set their price since the city has already chosen them as the single company on the project.
 9. Brett is hoping more information will be provided soon regarding the budget.
 10. Brett mentioned that the DDBA has to be careful regarding presenting alternative options to the community to avoid backlash.
 11. Aaron brought up that the temporary barriers at the North end of the area are a complete safety risk as someone could get hit by a car. On Oct 24, G Street was open to traffic on the North side going South. Someone had removed every single barrier and cars were moving through a pedestrian/bike only zone.
 - a. Brett still hasn't heard back as to why this happened. Speculated that someone protesting the street closure could have simply removed the barriers.
 - b. Used to have a more permanent barricade and now just cones - doesn't seem to be as urgent of a concern as it should be to get new bollards in place.
- b. CPTED Grants (Safer Davis 2023)
- i. Program is going really well - other than not having as much money as we wish we had to grant more.
 - ii. The money was left over from last year which was \$18,700. Reason why there was money left over this year is due to businesses backing out or the work not ultimately getting done or they decided they didn't want to do it after in the initial 2022 grant program.
 - iii. Recommendations were made from the judging panel (Michelle Hardy (Police Dept), Tim Mech (DDBA VP) and Brett Marasca (DDBA Executive Director)), but after reviewing all the applications they had to go back from their original recommendations which would have been over \$40K

awarded. Had to really narrow it down and divide it up in a fair manner as well as what would make the most impact (PD took the lead on this ultimately to determine the potential impact)

- iv. All of those that were awarded were accepted even though nobody got the full amount that they asked for out of fairness.
- v. Working with contractors to get the improvements made – tentative deadline is early December.
- vi. Brett is hoping that all the money will be completely used this year with our member businesses to improve the safety of downtown. City is supportive of this as well.
- vii. Dawn asked, “Do we keep record of all of those who have applied and when they back out?”
 - a. Brett tracks all communication and reports to the City. This year was significantly more complicated due to not having all the funds to fulfill everyone’s requests. However, everyone has been grateful for what could be granted.

c. Downtown Street Team

- i. Brett had great meeting with Angelo, Project Manager and Manny, Case Manager - really nice and proactive leaders.
- ii. Stats: From 4/1/23 to 10/25/23, they collected 24,750 gallons of debris, housed 3 team members, employed 6 team members, have had 3,578 volunteer hours, and 103 barriers removed for services, etc.
- iii. Currently have 8 team members. Can have up to 15 at any given time.
- iv. Brett asked if any team members primarily camped or hang out downtown. Their team said no and mentioned that most of those downtown are relatively content with their situation and don’t necessarily want or need the help of Downtown Streets Team, at least at this time. But it was acknowledged this can change at any time.
- v. Most of the outreach for DST to the unhoused population is through Paul’s Place (Davis Community Meals and Housing) and directly through the City.
- vi. Their team is going to talk to the City about having outreach specifically for downtown.
- vii. Brett brought up the different issues with flyers, lawn signs, etc. on poles and structures. Their team is worried about the perception of taking these things down, but is open to it with proper strategy and communication with the public prior to the campaign/work being implemented. Brett (with the DDBA’s board’s support) would like to start a campaign that this isn’t going to be accepted any longer. Wants to encourage dedicated areas for this type of signage and potentially develop a more centralized location. Many places that allow flyers to be posted. Difficult to remove stickers – it is considered graffiti and is a crime.

- a. Brett is discussing with Michele Hardy at PD and other city staff what the process moving forward will be regarding confronting these businesses that are posting flyers in undesignated places.
- b. The people that are putting them up are often not taking them down in a timely manner or at all. There needs to be a campaign ahead of time to ensure the public is aware before we take action.
- c. This is really affecting how downtown looks. Hope it doesn't take 6 months for a process to be put in place. Dawn suggested it would be good to get it figured out before the tree lightning ceremony (Nov. 30)
- d. Brett will be following up with the City and PD about starting this campaign of removing these flyers and determining the warning policy, etc. The hope is that DST can help implement the removal once policy is in place.
- e. There is conflicting code on signage in City ordinances. Needs to be all or nothing to prevent issues of favoritism or confusion of what is acceptable.
- f. Aaron putting in request that graffiti be cleaned off the Streets Team storage container. Brett is letting the City know.
- g. Aaron mentioned California Block Grant Funding as something that the Streets Team qualifies for and should consider applying to for future funding resources to maintain the program.
- h. Hours for Streets Team is M T W F 8am-12pm and Th 8am -10am; Weekends Off. Their goal was 20,000 gallons of waste for their fiscal year and they've already exceeded it in 6 months.
- i. Brett has noticed less clutter in downtown.
- j. Businesses can contact Angelo for little removal services (within reason) or unhoued issues. They are on call for case services. Anyone unhoued can get support - they do not need to be on the team to receive DST's services. Brett will get contact information for case support so businesses can contact them instead of PD if there are any issues.
- k. Angelo and Manny will provide stats on a weekly basis on Thursday. From 10/27 - 11/2: 85 Volunteer Hours, 620 gallons of trash, and 8 team members

5. Downtown Beautification Fund

- i. Currently, tied up with planning and community questions/messaging with the City related to the G Street Activation Project. No updates.

6. Parking & Transportation

a. SPIN ebikes & scooters

- i. Dawn would like to check in with their team about how many complaints have been received. Important to know if this is going better than Jump bikes and what's happening in comparison. Dawn will reach out to Spin Support to see if she can get some answers from them.
- ii. Spin was sold and purchased by scooter company Bird - Aaron hopes this won't tarnish or change the agreement the city went into with the company's previous ownership
- iii. Ryan Chapman provided the following information (as of 10/31) regarding SPIN:
 - a. There are over 400 devices in Davis
 - b. Based on ridership they can increase to 600
 - c. As part of the agreement, they must provide 2 bikes per 1 scooter
 - d. SPIN is working on integrating the device in the Lyft app so that Lyft users can use the devices
 - e. The promo code to get \$10 off is SpookySpin is live now and ends 11/11
 - f. They recommend that complaints be sent to the Davis SPIN Team
 - g. Offering a pass to everyone in Davis - Pay \$60 for 500 minutes of riding in a 3 month period. The pass can be purchased every 3 months.

b. Additional Parking Requested by Zipcar

- i. Zipcar requested two more parking spots downtown on H Street across from Tres Hermanas, prime spots right next to Amtrak station
- ii. Dawn recommends we don't do it as it seems like we're putting the downtown area at more of a disadvantage as people complain more and more about parking and we aren't getting anything in return for it.
- iii. We don't know why they need it and why in that location.
- iv. Zipcar's response was that they don't want to provide their financials. If they don't want to provide additional information around this request, why should we grant it. They haven't responded to the DDBA's email asking, "What is the city getting out of it? What benefit is it to the city and to us?"
- v. Dawn suggested there are a couple of 20-minute parking spots across from the DDBA office that are underutilized typically.
- vi. Dawn mentioned that more Zipcars probably doesn't benefit downtown as it brings more people out of the city - people will typically just walk downtown from that area so it's sending business away from downtown potentially.

- vii. Will not make any recommendation or approval until we get more information from Zipcar
- c. Vehicles Backing into Parking Spaces
 - i. Dawn still sees them a lot.
 - ii. City Parking Enforcement hasn't been reached out to about it
 - iii. Not safe
 - iv. It is not illegal to back into a space, but it is illegal to cross lines in traffic due to safety issues. Some may be doing it legally depending on the orientation of the space.
- d. 90 minute Parking Spaces on H Street
 - i. Brett thinks we should hold on pushing this on the City
 - ii. Between all the major projects on G Street it is going to be a huge construction zone and this needs to be figured out.
 - iii. Sumei shared that she hopes everyone is communicating about the G Street Activation Project since there is no end in sight.
 - iv. Brett suggested that Sumei meet with Brett and Ryan (Assistant Director of Public Works Engineering and Transportation/Traffic Engineer) to discuss concerns and what they can do to plan.

7. Other City of Davis Correspondence

- a. Recap of PD & Business Community Meeting on September 27th
 - i. Hosted by PD, Chamber and DDBA
 - 1. PD's planning survey received 37 responses from businesses
 - 2. Reviewed survey results
 - a. By far, Theft was the 1st priority of concern for businesses with Vandalism and Trespassing in 2nd and 3rd, with Fraud being the lowest priority
 - b. Most businesses that responded have been open for more than 10 years
 - c. Most respondents were in the Service and Retail Industries
 - d. Overall perception of PD was positive
 - e. Factors that contribute most to these business' perception of the Davis PD was:
 - 1. Responsiveness to businesses
 - 2. Visible Presence in the community
 - 3. Timely and Accurate Communication
 - 4. Collaboration with businesses
- b. Recap of Brett's Downtown Walkthrough with PD on October 23rd
 - i. Issues brought up with Michele Hardy (PD):
 - a. Graffiti
 - b. Illegal Delivery Driver Parking & "hang out" in E Street Plaza (parking in non-designated spots, at dangerous angles, conversation hub and not just "in-and-out" for

delivery pick-ups) - PD has cited people, but may need to get more aggressive with it

- i. Dawn brought up that painting it red could prevent these issues.
- ii. Brett said that signage and asphalt paint/messaging was discussed with PD - but how more signage being put up in the plaza looks is a concern. Still discussing what the potential solutions could be.

8. New Business

- a. No new business

9. Old Business

- a. No old business

10. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned
- b. Next Meeting: Moved to Friday, December 8th at 10:15am or 10:30am (TBD)