



# DAVIS DOWNTOWN

## Visioning & Civic Relations Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 7th @ 9:00 AM

**Chair:** Jen Cala

**Co-Chair:** Aaron Wedra

**Location:** Meet via Zoom

1. Welcome / Attendance
  - a. Board: Aaron Wedra
  - b. DDBA Team: Brett Maresca, Kendall Doten
  - c. Attendees: Diane Parro
2. Review of Minutes & Agenda
  - a. March meeting minutes (approved)
  - b. April meeting agenda (approved)
    - i. Agenda amended to move the G St. Project update up to item 4
3. Public Comment
  - a. Aaron has been following the Brixmor development project; recently, a member of City Council suggested an appeal of the project. The appeal did not go through, but there is an ongoing conversation in the community about this project, especially regarding the issue of housing. The City may be reconsidering their process of appeals, so that they are efficient and timely
4. Beautification Subcommittee Update
  - a. New Downtown Planters Update
    - i. Brett brought up an issue with the self-watering planters; the installation of these planters with some kind of irrigation system could be challenging to approve with the City, and they would still require maintenance but acknowledged they are a great idea but further research and discussion with the City would be needed to proceed further
    - ii. Staff to reach out to Shelli Ramos to get an update on where research and opportunities currently stand
  - b. Bike Sculpture Update

- i. No update. Brett is meeting with Rachel Hartsough today, and he will bring up the topic with her
- 5. G St. Project Update (Diane Parro)
  - a. Project Updates
    - i. Some significant steps have been taken to move the project forward. Working on a proposal with a configuration for parking and flow of bike traffic. Diane is working on identifying a process for business owners to obtain an encroachment permit and follow clearly defined safety requirements/guidelines.
    - ii. The City is working with Kevin Perry, a well-known landscape architect, on a sustainable, innovative design for G Street. Kevin has already provided a design proposal presentation to the City. Kevin has already provided another contact for a subcontractor that could take the project over if necessary. The landscape architect will be the leader in creating guidelines for aesthetic consistency; this includes structural standards for businesses to follow.
    - iii. Needs for power and plumbing need to be considered.
    - iv. Brett mentioned a possible long-term plan for an outdoor amphitheater on the G Street block.
  - b. Timeline and Proposed Next Steps
    - i. Brett mentioned there will be continued consistent questions and anxiety from DDBA membership (and pressure from our board) regarding seeing a dedicated timeline, improvements on the street, and direction for businesses; Diane stated she will provide a more defined timeline very soon.
    - ii. For some amount of time, the street will need to be completely empty to allow for work to be done (ex: re-striping of parking spaces, a possible art project, etc). Diane asked how much time can be spent on this without disrupting the businesses; Informally, it looks like this will take place after graduation to avoid disruption to the businesses.
    - iii. Aaron requested the printed plans for G Street but hasn't yet received them. Diane would like a copy of those as well and plans to follow up with Public Works for this
    - iv. Aaron suggested naming the gateway from the Train Station to our

“historic main street”, and our downtown as a whole. Name suggestions include, “G Street Gateway”, “G Street Pedestrian Gateway”. Diane said that there are many ideas coming in regarding this, as well as other artistic elements that can elevate the aesthetic of the G Street area of downtown.

- c. V&CR Committee Involvement
    - i. Brett suggested the V&CR Committee create a subcommittee for the G Street Project
    - ii. At some point, the City would like to formalize an MOU with the DDBA for usage of the pedestrian walkway
  - d. Rotary Club Offer - Tree Planting Educational Display
    - i. No Update
6. \$10K City of Davis Beautification Fund
- a. Digital Kiosk Proposal Opportunity
    - i. We need to analyze details for the kiosk (such as pricing) soon and create a proposal to the City.
    - ii. Brett suggested the V&CR Committee create a subcommittee for this project. Aaron expressed interest in participating in this subcommittee. More details on subcommittee meetings to be discussed offline
  - b. Fund Project(s) Prioritization
    - i. Aaron advocated for the beautification funds going toward a digital kiosk. Our deadline is coming up for 2023 (June 30th), and we need to make decisions for this funding very soon. Brett is in support of this project as well, and it was a project that previous V&CR Committee leadership had advocated for but seemed to be too expensive at the time. Now with the G Street Activation project at hand, it makes sense to bring this to the forefront and include a digital kiosk into that project’s planning.
  - c. Timeline for City of Davis Proposal
    - i. Once a proposal has been submitted to the City, a decision will need to be made by City Staff. Hopefully the completion of this project will land during simultaneously with other G Street beautification projects in the Fall
7. Downtown Streets Team Update (Brett Maresca)
- a. Cameron Cullen has come on as the Project Manager for Davis DST; he will be

our main point of contact for DST

- b. Angelo Parra, the new DST Case Manager, will start on April 18. Angelo grew up in Davis and is excited to help our community; he has a lot of social services experience previously working with Yolo County Children's Alliance
  - c. The first Weekly Success Meeting is scheduled for April 27, with a "soft shift" on Friday, April 28. The official first shift will be Monday, May 1.
  - d. DST has secured a meeting space and office space at Davis Community Church and are in the process of getting their MOUs and insurance docs squared away. Cameron and Heather will be presenting about DST to the Davis Community Church Social Justice Ministry Group next Wednesday
  - e. Cameron has been making the rounds this week in Davis, popping in to introduce himself to future community partners and doing some outreach with the unhoused population
  - f. DST will be having 2 or 3 orientation meetings in the week leading up to their first Weekly Success Meeting, and they are hoping to get the word out and launch with 10-12 Team Members
  - g. DST is open to meet with the DDBA at any time. They are open to collaboration and hearing our specific goals for downtown. Our V&CR Committee can discuss how we want to move forward with them and come up with a list of prioritized goals.
8. Welcome to Davis Sign Update
- a. DDBA submitted an application and payment to Davis Odd Fellows for the sign
  - b. Next steps are for the DDBA to get a medallion created. DDBA staff was considering doing a rebrand for the DDBA, including a new logo design. With our given timeline and load of other projects, it is very unlikely that we will be able to do that this year. Aaron informed us that we are able to get a new medallion created at any time if we wanted to replace our logo on the sign.
  - c. DDBA is going to move forward with ordering a medallion for \$350 with our current logo. Kendall to email Melissa with All Action Awards later today.
9. Urban Forest Management Plan Update
- a. City Council Meeting (UFMP Discussion) Recap
    - i. Brett presented a statement with recommendations for the UFMP to City Council but hasn't yet received feedback. Aaron suggested that we reach out for a follow up on this. Brett agreed; Aaron to create a list of questions

to bring forward to the city arborist, Charlie Murphy

10. New Business

- a. No Update

11. Old Business

- a. G Street Cleaning & Maintenance plan

- i. Figueroa Landscaping is continuing to work with the City with an extended contract that will run through the start of DST, at minimum. This will allow a couple of months for DST to get situated and take over the majority of downtown cleanup responsibilities that Figueroa is contracted for
- ii. DST to identify any issues that are outside of their scope of work (ex: biohazards or things that may be out of reach), at which point we will go to the City with suggestions on managing those issues

12. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.
- b. Next meeting: Friday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m.