



DOWNTOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

DNA Board of Directors Meeting Notes

6 pm, March 4th, 2019

Covo, 401 Pine Street, St Louis, MO 63102

Attendees: Mike Willis (chair), LaShana Lewis (vice chair), James Page (Treasurer), Dan Pistor (Secretary), Brenton Brown, Melanie Fries, and Bob Ray.

Guest Attendees: Chuck Justice and Patrick

Treasurer's Report

James went over the bank report and expressed his concerns over fees from Commerce Bank. James uses US Bank for another non profit and they don't charge fees. Will also look at Bank of America as well as US Bank. James wants board approval to start the search for new banking services. James also asked for approval to renew the directors insurance. Melanie said their HOA legal guy and said they were indemnified. James said to send the statute over to him. Bob moved to accept the treasurers report, Melanie seconded, all approved.

Taste of Downtown Discussion:

Before the Taste of St Louis representatives arrived, we started with a brief discussion on monetary requirements needed from the Taste of St Louis group. Once the Taste of St Louis representatives arrived, we went over introductions. Chuck Justice owns Event Ops and went over what that business entails. They also own Green To Go Rental Power which powers a lot of the festivals around the area. His partner Patrick and him have acquired Entertainment St Louis which was responsible for putting on Taste of St Louis. Chuck went over the history of Taste of St Louis and how the old owner was finished with the company and wanted out, so he sold it and they plan to move Taste of St Louis back downtown.

Chuck went over his plans for the Taste of St Louis.

Will partner with Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

He wants local mom and pop restaurants and other local talent.

Wants a focus on sustainability. Recycling, composting, and responsible farming.

Plans to focus on the community. Partnering with schools and other non-profits for restaurant scholarships, sponsor stories, food desert maps, etc.

Healthy at Home which includes quick healthy meals, farm to table, safe food, and kitchen safety.

Will have a family kitchen that includes kids cooking demonstration, healthy food, and will subscribe to CSA's.

Wants to give back to the community.

The event will take place at Soldiers Memorial and plan to announce on March 15th in the Mayors office. They will not close 14th street and will respect the memorial. Pine will also remain open to traffic. They will close Market and the event will occur in the space just east of the memorial. We could help them sell the event to downtown restaurants and receive other events.



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

James went over our Taste of Downtown event. This is our 3rd year doing the event. We had 15 restaurants that were located in downtown. We had several artists, musicians, and retailers. We had no event planners and used all volunteer labor. The restaurants were allowed to sell and profit off alcohol. We partnered with Schlafly and keep the proceeds from the beer sales.

Chuck said he thought of the fundraising aspect and said most organizations wouldn't take the risk to put on an event such as this like we do. He said there are opportunities for partnering and raising funds through the Taste of St Louis. James asked if we could also incorporate Schlafly since we partnered with them in the past. Chuck said that there may be a hiccup with Major Brands involved. James mentioned possibility an event inside of an event. Chuck asked if we wanted to put that much work into it. Bob said our main goals are an opportunity for our restaurants and fundraising. Melanie said our restaurants and our event have a certain amount that we need to make. Chuck said our event is risky because what if it rains or another disaster occurs that poses a problem. He said we could eliminate all the risk, be a part of a larger event, and still profit. Chuck said we are rolling the dice that we will make more money with our own festival and we could take a little less with a lower risk and more exposure. Bob said we will support Taste of St Louis no matter what. James said we bring to the table an established event, we could offer co-branding, we have promotional tools we could apply to a combined event, and we have great relationships with restaurants downtown. Chuck said they could offer discounts to downtown restaurants if they wanted to participate. He said they have around 35 restaurants participate. Melanie asked if the downtown restaurants could be grouped together. Chuck said that's a possibility and maybe someone could sponsor the downtown area but he would have to think about it and get back. Chuck said it would be doing us a disservice by only selling Schlafly products.

Bob clarified that one option would be to give a discount to a certain number of restaurants and make concessions off running a beer stand. The other option would be a smaller event like the taste of downtown inside the Taste of St Louis. Patrick said there is limited space for restaurants since they are scaling back the footprint. An event inside an event may not be realistic. Chuck said we could change signage to differentiate the downtown restaurants. James moved us to next steps. Chuck said we have a week and a half to work things out. He will come up with an offer and send it to us by the end of the week. He would need a response by next Tuesday since the announcement is next Friday.

Bylaws:

Dan stated that they need to be posted tonight.

Alex expressed concerns with the wrong version being edited. James stated that has been fixed.

Bob is happy to have a discussion about it but said this isn't the ideal process to amend the bylaws.

Alex stated some changes aren't well thought out.

Bob said he has concerns on the definition on small businesses.

Bob recommended to table the vote. James said the May meeting is already full with the Better Together meeting.

Dan asked if Zach is willing to table. Bob stated if the attendees at the Town Hall vote to table that's all that matters

James stated we need to step back and first meet Zach's expectations on sending out the notifications to the membership first and have it heard at the Town Hall.

Dan stated he is concerned on how the process to table will actually occur. We likely won't know that until the meeting occurs.



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Bob said we haven't put the new updates to the recent amendments to the Bylaws yet. James and Dan said that those changes have actually been made.

Mike said that Zach will present during the Town Hall, then we have discussion, if someone motions to table or vote on the bylaws then we follow the normal process.

Dan said we need paper ballots if we are going to vote so we have proof of the vote.

Lashawna made a motion to adjourn the meeting, James second, all approved.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Town Hall Meeting, 3/11, 6pm - Central Library Auditorium
- Safety Meeting, 03/27, 6pm - Lucas Park Grille
- Downtown Happy Hour, 03/28, 5:30-8pm - Hotel St Louis