



DNA Board of Directors Meeting Notes

6 pm, September 3rd, 2019

Covo, 401 Pine Street, St Louis, MO 63102

Attendees: Mike Willis (chair), LaShana Lewis (Vice Chair), Dan Pistor (Secretary), Melanie Fries, Alex Hurst, Taylor Jackson.

Not Present: James Page (Treasurer)

Minutes:

Melanie raised a question on business membership fees. Mike said that suggestion actually came out of office hours. Melanie moved to approve the minutes, Alex seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report:

James sent out the bank statements and Treasurers report before the meeting since he wasn't able to attend.

Membership and Development:

Melanie and Rob came up with a few ideas. They want a confidential list of prominent figures downtown. Melanie wants introductions to some of these individuals to help build a relationship with them. They would like to partner with the Green Sheet to have events listed in the program. Membership had a meeting Monday and discussed how the info table will be managed at Taste. She suggested that we reconsider the 50/50 idea. Mike asked if they have enough manpower for the table. Melanie said yes. The recently established QR code goes to the membership signup on the website. Mary Scott brought up the idea of partnering with the Green Sheet.

Taste of St Louis:

Taste is next week. Taylor said 29 people signed up online and 14 more signed up on paper forms. We need to go through the times and see where gaps are. Mike thinks we will be ok but will have a better understanding after office hours. James will order shirts. They are speaking with Confluence on Thursday. KIPP didn't work out getting them to volunteer.

Events:

The committee continues working on Spark and trying to set up the Holiday Party. Happy Hours are established for the rest of the year. Fall Fires have been set up as well.

Safety:

The Dan confirmed with Blondies that they are ok having us on the patio. Maura donated snacks. Desiree is donating the water and coolers. Dan sent out attachments for Tucker Shell, proposals, and the sample form letters that can be presented. Alex asked if anyone had concerns with DUI checks. Dan said no one has objected. Melanie wanted to add that we have been affected by certain high profile murders. Mike mentioned we need a follow up with the Mayor in Sept or Oct.



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Urban Spaces:

LaShana went over a list of items the committee is working on that will help improve the urban fabric of downtown. Some of the areas they identified were public restrooms, seating and tables, community gardens/dog parks, giving up to date information on sidewalk closures, scooter improvements, providing information regarding Metro, and partnering with Citizens For Modern Transit for more bus frequency downtown.

Building Captains:

Taylor gave an update on the committee efforts and went over the survey results that she received from the Captains. She will discuss the results and work to implement some of the recommendations.

By-Laws:

Alex went over the changes for the bylaws. Most of the changes are simple language clean up. He did incorporate changes the board size from 7 to 9, qualifications for members and small businesses, and added the nondiscrimination changes we decided on. Everyone was on board with the changes with the exception of the board size. We decided to keep the size at 7 at this time and can always incorporate the language to increase the size at a later date. The board feels the organization in operating better with 7 right now and it's hard to find people to serve on the board. Once the organization continues to solidify it's footing, we can possibly increase the size to 9.

Open Discussion:

Dan asked if it were ok to invite Citizens for a Greater Downtown to one of the board meetings. Everyone said they were interested in hearing what their plans are.

Dan made a motion to adjourn, Melanie 2nd, all in favor to adjourn.



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