



MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2023
9:00 AM – Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

Board Vice-Chair, Larry Jackson, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Attendance

In Attendance: Melinda Kelleher, Matt Miller, John Buchanan, Larry Jackson, Ruth Davis-Rogers, Penny Walker, Ed Huber, Sandi Saville, Laurie Marchini, Lori Lepley, Jamie Echfu, Eve Hutcherson, Dave Romero, Micheal Harris, Stu Czapski, Rhett Wolford

Media: WCBC Radio (Kathy Cornwell), Cumberland Times-News (Theresa McMinn)

Absent: Doug Schwab

Minutes

July meeting minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Ed Huber

July was the first month of the Fiscal Year for 2024. Overall, we are in line with expected expenses.

Executive Director Report – August 2023

Completed:

- Friday After Five Event on August 4 – Scheduled radio ads, hired musicians, handled other publicity, placed sandwich board signs to promote the event, live ads on WCBC radio
- E-Blasts – Mise En Place, The Three Stars Arts, Azad's
- Summer Farmer's Market – promotions, social media.
- Website updates and additions.
- Baltimore Street Construction – sent out four update emails to all constituents
- Meetings/events attended: City Special Events Committee meeting, Baltimore Street Workgroup, Construction Progress meetings with Triton, planning meeting for holiday events with DDC Marketing Coordinator, monthly meeting with DDC Maintenance Coordinator, planning meeting for bar event with Mezzos, Main Street Committee meetings – Promotions, Personnel Policy training at City, Call with Ellicott City Main Street Manager, SWOT Analysis meeting, Chamber State of the County event.
- Two meetings with potential downtown investors – toured McMullen and Rosenbaum buildings.
- Worked with Marketing Coordinator on July social media calendar (Facebook 3.7K likes; 4.4K followers).
- Completed Main Street Maryland report for July and submitted.



MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2023
9:00 AM – Virtual Meeting

Executive Director Report – August 2023 continued

August/September Projects

- Continue communications and website updates for Baltimore Street Project.
- Promotions for Friday After Five on September 8 – radio ads, etc.
- Eblasts – Construction update, Barkin’ Basement, JZ’s Pub, and Arts Council scheduled.
- Main Street monthly report.
- Ribbon Cutting for Elijah Thane Studio opening on Baltimore Street.
- Meetings/Events: Main Street Committee meetings, Baltimore Street Workgroup, City Special Events Committee, Baltimore Street Progress Meeting, Construction Update meeting with Triton
- Work on Cumberland Winter Festival Event – organize bike decorating contest, order fire pits and heat lamps, work with Marketing Coordinator on logistics.
- Main Street Maryland grant reports.

Old Business

Baltimore Street Project – Melinda Kelleher

The work on pulling the water and fiber lines up to the buildings is underway. They are working on the block between Mechanic and Liberty first. The sidewalks will be closed periodically.

CEDC Update – Matt Miller

Security Project – Final stages of executing agreements with the buildings where the cameras will be installed. Working on Certificates of Appropriateness. Work should begin in mid-late September for installation and run through the end of the year.

Historic Preservation Update – Ruth Davis-Rogers

Historic Preservation Plan consultants will be in town on September 12th to present a draft of the plan at a public meeting. Two residents on Washington Street received a combined \$70K in tax credits for improvements to their homes. Late roof repair workshop in September or October. Intern Eve Hutcherson has updated the HP pages of the city website – a huge improvement. Melinda and Ruth will oversee a DDC/HPC booth at Heritage Days with Cumberland Jeopardy game – Randy from Commercial Press will serve as emcee.

MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2023
9:00 AM – Virtual Meeting

Main Street Committee Reports

Clean Safe and Green – Melinda reporting

Met July 25th. Focused on addressing homeless encampments downtown, lack of downtown lighting, high speed chargers for electric vehicles

Design Committee – Sandi Saville

Haven't met since last report. Public Art Commission will be formed to discuss public art downtown and will probably meet in early fall. NEA grant application is being finalized. They will help with an RFP for a \$25K grant for art for Church Alley. Also applying for a T Mobile grant for a mural on CBIZ wall.

Economic Restructuring Committee – Larry Jackson

Haven't met since last DDC meeting.

Organization Committee – Laurie

Meeting again on August 24. Added an additional committee member – Rob Dettinburn with Dig Deep.

Promotions Committee – Jamie Echefu

New chair is Jamie Echefu. Meeting next week. Will be discussing how they can help with the Winter Festival.

Public Comments

WCBC asked about new businesses downtown. Melinda shared that Elijah Thane is opening an art studio space at 103 Baltimore Street and the ribbon cutting is Saturday, August 12 at 11AM – all are invited. New businesses going into McMullen and Rosenbaum buildings – Base Camp Coffee, Creamery, AJ's Cookies, and D'Atri's. Also new businesses in the old Lew Lew Belle space and Terry's Jewelry space. There is a new art dealer opening on North Centre Street in early September.

WCBC asked about the lack of lighting downtown. Melinda shared that the Main Street Clean, Safe and Green Committee is working on some solutions and plans to speak with the Mayor and City Council about options.

John Buchanan voiced concerns about the homeless people downtown and asked what kind of ordinance or law can we lean on to help. Sandi Saville noted that as long as they are on public property, there isn't much we can do. If they are on private property downtown, then we can ask them to move along. She suggested John speak with Chief Chuck Ternent about solutions.

Larry Jackson shared that Mezzos Underground will be a live music venue in the basement level of Mezzos. The Savage Mountain Punk Festival will kick-off this newly named space this coming weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03AM.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 9AM.