DBI Community Meeting – April 23, 2022

Tim Wagner introduced himself as president of the DBI Board. About 25 folks in attendance.

**DBI updates**

**Events:** Carey Smith, DBI Board member chairing events committee, spoke.

She said she is so proud of the work DBI has done since last meeting – creating 3 subcommittees – who have accomplished quite a bit.

There are 5 DBI members and around 10 volunteers who have joined events committee. Others are welcome – meet 1 or 2 a month via zoom.

**First Fridays** – Kim Kus – is doing an amazing job with events the first Fridays of March, April, May. It is growing in participation – vendors in Brewskis and Jag housing, music . As weather gets nicer, DBI hopes to have outside music possibly shutting down around fountain. Justin Hummel mentioned that he and Kim are hoping to block off around the fountain for non-profits – to engage folks in volunteer activities.

First Friday in June – Miller Avenue will have music

**Chili Cook-off -** Theresa Huff, a volunteer on the events committee, has done a great job of researching the event and laying the groundwork. It is her hope that the cook-off teams will be local businesses, organizations and friends. The date is October 14. The registration for teams will open in July. Watch the DBI website for more details.

**Artfest** – August 19th – moving to opposite side of Main Street on Market Stret– to accommodate more vendors.

Anyone have an idea for an event, contact Carey Smith.

**The Avenue** (formerly known as Miller Avenue)

This alleyway is now a private road. It is no longer a town project but a private project. Cleve Hummel, who owns on of the adjacent buildings to the alley is driving the project. Joe Gushen, who owns another of the adjacent buildings is also on board with public use of the alley. Cleve wants DBI to have twice monthly events. Planters installed have been installed creating an attractive barrier to vehicles. The project has momentum. Lights, curbing, murals are in the works. A huge shout out to Cleve and Joe Gushen. This is a community project – hope to involve others in the mural work, etc.

**Marketing**

A marketing survey for businesses was handed out Survey is available on the website. A new website will be launched in early June.

Questions from those in attendance:

Is DBI a part of the chamber? Why is the town giving up its Chamber membership? How many downtown businesses are a part of the chamber?

DBI is a subsidiary of the Chamber and also pays dues as a member. Justin Hummel replied that they are meeting with Chris Berleth, head of the Chamber, to keep the town as members for this year.

Tim Wagner stressed that the partnership between DBI and the town is still very strong – even though Miller Avenue project abandoned.

What about the Park next to the library.? Lydia Kegler, the library director, said that the park was a Tara Carr Erney memorial – donations to the project in her memory paid for almost all of the conversation of the area. She said that that there is furniture coming – June 2 will see the area fully used with an event outside for children.

Is there an update to the Pocket Park project in the West End of town? Josh Nespoli, of the Community Strategies Group said the there has been a redesign process to reflect that inflation had doubled the price of the original plan. The cut out items were more luxuries than necessities. He believes that the changed design is quite nice. However, there will be no plumbing and there will be shade structure changes. $300,000 in grant funds has been secured thus far. Steps to completion of the project are a survey, construction plans and the bid process of a project using state funds.

Tim Wagner closed indicating that there will be more of these public input meetings in 2023.