



Rochester City Council

Community Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Elaine Lauterborn, Chairperson
Alan Reed-Erickson , Vice-Chair
Brian LaBranche
Steve Hervey
David Hynes

Meeting Date:	July 25, 2013	
Members Present:	Councilor Lauterborn Councilor Hervey Councilor Hynes	Members Absent: Councilor LaBranche Councilor Reed-Erickson
Guests/Staff:	Samantha Rodgerson, Executive Assistant Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Ward 3 representative Dan Fitzpatrick, City Manager Donna Caton, Owner & Director of Storybook Hollow Mike Provost, Director of Rochester Main Street Dennis Ottino, Rochester Main Street volunteer Mary Ellen Humphrey, Economic Development Specialist Senator John Regan	

Councilor Lauterborn called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Item VII was removed from the agenda to be placed on the August agenda. Motion was made by Councilor Hervey and seconded by Councilor Hynes, minutes were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION – Community Garden request	<p>All committee and guests introduced themselves. Ms. Caton was asked to attend to discuss her request to utilize City property as a community garden. City Manager Fitzpatrick explained this request was recommended to this committee because the City did not currently have a policy in place. Councilor Lauterborn suggested that the committee and Ms. Caton look over the DRAFT Community Garden License that was drawn up by Attorney Wensley and get back to her with any concerns or changes. Ms. Rodgerson also provided the committee with a previous agreement that had been used by the School Dept. for a community garden off Franklin Street. There was some brief discussion about the location and community benefit. Councilor Lachapelle stated he supports this request. Motion was made by Councilor Hervey and seconded by Councilor Hynes to recommend Council approval at the August 6, 2013 City Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously. (Councilor Lachapelle left at 7:15pm)</p>
DISCUSSION – Downtown Master Plan goal review and update	<p>Councilor Lauterborn suggested that they go through the original goals and discuss results and to continue discussions in coming months. Mike Provost and Mary Ellen Humphrey were in attendance to discuss. Ms. Humphrey began by discussing the positive results and goals that have been accomplished to date. She pointed out that downtown needs to be a shared vision between Rochester Main Street, the City, the Chamber and property owners, etc. Mr. Provost then briefly went through the original vision and what has been accomplished. He stated there have</p>

	<p>been 6 community projects, 6 ongoing special events, the original vision only mentioned having 1 event. He discussed the various public spaces. He discussed parking. Mr. Ottino counted all the spaces in downtown from the bridge on North Main St to the Commons and there were over 550, excluding the lot behind Friendly's. Ms. Provost mentioned that the goals that are of most importance currently are traffic calming, wayfinding and branding. The committee then briefly went through each of the original goals and Mr. Provost updated them on where they stand and what has been accomplished. He made note that the occupancy rate has increased from 65% to 75% since 2009 and that the list of businesses has increased from 200- 230. Councilor Lauterborn requested that Mr. Provost try to put together a written list for each one and bring it back to the committee so that they will have some formal documentation. Ms. Humphrey did mention the aspect of safety and that could be a concern that should be looked into, such as the Congress Street parking lot not being lit, etc. There was some discussion about the missing trash cans that had been vandalized and how to get them back. Councilor Hynes will discuss with Bruce Young, Public Buildings Supervisor. There was brief discussion about the improvement of art organizations and public art exhibits and other events. Brief discussion of housing goal and possibility that properties and City could benefit from creating a downtown TIF District. More research would need to be done to determine if that would be feasible. The committee continued to go through the goals and discuss. It was suggested that committee members also go through the original goals and list their suggestions or comments as to what improvements have been made or where improvements could be made. Councilor Lauterborn suggested that they discuss this again at the September 26th meeting and to bring the information they have gathered or put together on each goal.</p> <p>Mr. Provost then gave the committee a quick update on some recent and new events.</p> <p>The Blues Festival –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very successful • venue gives the ability to expand in the future. • Lilac City Grille chef who said that they tripled their lunch traffic. <p>Rochester Main Street is launching a new website</p> <p>Arts & Culture Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website • Awards ceremony at The Garage, August 12th • Tentative – ceremony to honor Bill & Jan Keefe
<p>DISCUSSION – update from Conservation Commission about Rt. 11 Park</p>	<p>Minutes from the March, May & June Conservation Commission meetings were provided that discussed the Rt. 11 Park. The minutes indicate that there is no value as a rest stop or a park. The committees final recommendation is that there is no value to the City.</p>

NEXT MEETING TOPICS	<p>August 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Society window project • Level of support for CDBG funds on Rec. Building - Lowell Street project • Using CDBG funds on Community Center heater <p>September 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Master Plan goal review • CDBG- discussions/planning for formal scoring matrix for public service CDBG funding
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Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Hervey and seconded by Councilor Hynes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Next Meeting – August 22, 2013 in the Conference Room at City Hall

Topics

- Historic Society window project
- Level of support for CDBG funds on Rec. Building - Lowell Street project
- Using CDBG funds on Community Center heater