

Downtown Community Work Group Meeting Notes



Downtown Partners, 418 Pierce Street
10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016

DOWNTOWN PARTNERS SIOUX CITY
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Present: Stacie Anderson, Ragen Cote, Sarah Fish, Bob Fitch, Heidi Connelly, Mark Hinds, Dennis Johnson, Ben Knoepfler, Valerie Petersen, Mark Reinders, Ryan Ross, Ryan Spellman, Dave Wissing

Knoepfler welcomed the group and began introductions. An overview of the report completed by Brad Segal, with Progressive Urban Management Associates was covered, which provided a work plan detailing the organizational capacity, goals, initiatives and activities.

The goals of this work group are to:

1. Communicate with ratepayers and engage property and business owners in downtown marketing and improvement efforts.
2. Become a “city-building portal” for young professionals and “rebounders” by positioning downtown as the place for young entrepreneurs to start businesses and innovate.
3. Organize the downtown residential population by engaging residents in efforts to attract new amenities and services that enhance downtown’s appeal for living.

Before approaching the list of activities, the group shared a few thoughts on engaging the population, encouraging feedback and sharing information that helps keep everyone informed. Some niche communities/groups that already exist can help communicate information among each other to spread the word. A community calendar was mentioned as well as walking tours of this group and neighborhood “block parties”. The group would like to find a way to help contact groups to start setting up a network for updates and events. Utilizing events such as Park(ing) Day and Food Truck Fridays where people are walking around downtown should be opportunities for businesses to open their doors and promote.

For the next meeting, the group will start to take the ideas shared and create action items for the activities within the work plan. Events for monthly morning coffees and afternoon updates at businesses will be discussed further as well.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Downtown Partners (418 Pierce St.)

**meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month through the end of the year. Meeting days and times will be re-evaluated for 2017.*

