

**Downtown Economy Work Group
Meeting Notes**



DOWNTOWN PARTNERS SIOUX CITY

418 Pierce Street
Sioux City, IA 51101
P (712) 252-0014
F (712) 258-8516

DOWNTOWNSIOUXCITY.COM

Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, 101 Pierce Street

11:00 a.m., Monday, August 15, 2016

Present: Stacie Anderson, Jennifer Rose Bass, Renae Billings, Ragen Cote, Sarah Fish, Tanya LaBahn, Dale McKinney, Todd Rausch, Sam Wagner, Anne Westra.

Wagner welcomed the group, began introductions and then presented Jennifer Rose Bass as a co-chair of the work group. The co-chair positions will ideally take on the two separate sub-groups that could form in conjunction with compiling market/property data and mobilizing entrepreneurship efforts.

The group reviewed a prepared RFP and it was suggested that many of the resources could be gathered locally from existing reports like the IEDC study, local real estate agents and other resources (i.e. LOIS, IDA, Iowa Downtown Resource Center, UNI, Manta, Dunham & Bradstreet). The search for someone to prepare the structure of the market and property data report and data resources for upkeep needs to be identified. Options discussed were purchasing existing software, and if it does not exist, possibly engaging local entrepreneurs to develop the software. Existing subscriptions to other data sources should be gathered as well by the members of the group.

Bass labeled each initiative:

1. Establish business support services that compile market & property data and provide policy leadership representing the downtown business community.
2. Mobilize "city builders" to support entrepreneurship, new businesses by marketing downtown and helping to reduce regulatory barriers that can help small businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.
3. Work with civic partners, including the City, to create incentives for housing, entertainment & innovation niches in downtown.

Bass will take the lead on initiative #1; Wagner will take the lead on initiative #2. Activities, in order as listed under initiative #1, will be lead by (a) the group, (b) Fish, (c) Cote, (d) board of directors commercial agent, (e) Fish, (f) Community work group. Initiative #2 will look to the help of the Start Up Sioux City group and their structure. Initiative #3 addresses assisting the City of Sioux City's efforts to complete a Comprehensive Plan; advocating for support funds to enhance facades in the historic 4th street district and gather information on innovation funding such as the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

For the next meeting, Cote and Fish will research examples of market profiles so the group can help establish the needs of our market profile. Cote and Fish are going to come back with more examples and LaBahn offered to come back with Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) information. Wagner will report on the structure of Start Up Sioux City.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 19 at 11:00 a.m. at Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, 101 Pierce St.

