



**DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**109 EAST OLIVE STREET; BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017 AT 4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment

*(Each regular Task Force meeting shall have a public comment period not to exceed 30 minutes. Every speaker is entitled to speak for up to 3 minutes. To be considered for public comment, complete a public comment card at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The Chairperson will randomly draw from the cards submitted. Public comment is a time to give comment. It is not a question and answer period, and the Task Force Committee does not respond to public comments. Speakers who engage in threatening or disorderly behavior will have their time ceased.)*

4. Consideration, review and approval of Minutes from the July 18, 2017 meeting
5. Presentation on public safety in downtown (Presented by Ken Bayes, Assistant Chief of the Bloomington Police Department)
6. Presentation on the creation of public spaces in downtown areas (Presented by Vasu Pinnamaraju, Executive Director of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission)
7. Downtown Task Force Committee discussion on the initial draft of task force recommendations
8. Adjourn

DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

109 EAST OLIVE STREET; BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017 AT 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Buragas called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and asked Ms. Hon to call the Roll.

2. Roll Call

List who was present of the Task Force:

Committee Member Kim Bray, Committee Member Jamie Mathy, Committee Member Justin Boyd, Committee Member Mike Manna, Committee Member Bobby Vericella, and Chairperson Amelia Buragas

Committee Member Tricia Stiller arrived at 12:03 pm

Staff Present:

Melissa Hon, Assistant to the City Manager; Tom Dabareiner, Community Development Director; David Hales, City Manager; Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager; Austin Grammer, Economic Development Coordinator; Katie Simpson, City Planner; Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director; and Diana Hauman, Alderman Ward 8.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Minutes: The Committee reviewed the June 27, 2017 minutes. Committee Member Boyd moved to approve the minutes; Committee Member Bray seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Items for discussion

- a. Discussion and prioritization of recommendations received by Downtown Task Force for consideration

Chairperson Buragas presented a copy of comments received from the public and Task Force members and stated these are not formal recommendations, but ideas that have come in for discussion. She stated we need to look at some of these and pick out ones that need to be discussed further or things that there are strong support for in the community. We need to figure out how we can present these proposals to Council in a way that will lead to an actionable outcome.

Committee Member Manna stated that with respect to something easy, inexpensive and



doable are street planters and additional lighting. He stated he would be willing to buy his own if the City would permit the privilege of putting it on the sidewalk and water these plants. He also asked about the purchase of some trees and putting lighting in them.

Chairperson Buragas stated that it might be better to invest more for trees that would have a bigger impact from the beginning instead of waiting for them to grow. She asked Mr. Dabareiner about the planters on the sidewalk and if there barriers to that now.

Mr. Dabareiner replied that would be in the Public Works area. He stated that there would need to be consistency so people look at an area as a unified downtown.

Committee Member Vericella stated that we are having to do this on our own and asked where is the City was in this game.

Chairperson Buragas stated that business owners and people who want to develop and want these things to happen are willing to put money in and people in the City who think it is an equally good idea, but we have not figured out a way to connect those two things.

Committee Member Mathy suggested using standardized planters.

Committee Member Stiller clarified that the plantings that are now in the pots are done by volunteers from Adopt-a-Pot and the City comes once a week to water. The rest of the watering is up to the volunteers. She stated they now make self-watering pots that have a reservoir and if you water it once, it holds water and maintains the plant internally.

Committee Member Vericella stated that there was a need for some type of a budget for planting of trees.

Chairperson Buragas brought up parking meters and Committee Member Mathy stated that Normal and Bloomington are the only two cities that he had been to in Illinois of any size that do not have parking meters. He added that employers and their employees are taking up customer spots. He proposed the idea of parking meters in all the spots and free parking in the garages and the parking meters will pay to maintain the garages. He also stated that enforcement is needed to go later in the day until 7 or 8 o'clock.

Chairperson Buragas asked the business owners if they felt it would in any way be a deterrent to people coming downtown if we put in parking meters, but maybe open up the garages to make it free.

Committee Member Mathy suggested better signage and maps in the stairwells for the parking garages.

Committee Member Boyd stated that it is an interesting idea but as soon as people hear parking meters downtown, you are going to hear something. Education and cost need to be taken into consideration.

Committee Member Manna discussed getting rid of the entire parking area in the center

between the 300 block and all the way down to 602 and making it a walkway.

Chairperson Buragas asked if we wanted to close portions of the streets off to vehicular traffic all the time.

Committee Member Manna stated that it would be very minimal cost to do just three or four blocks and give it a try.

Committee Member Mathy stated that there would be two businesses that would be impacted by this plan and we would need to talk with the business and building owners.

Committee Member Boyd wanted to encourage some businesses to be open later than they are and the meters would be good in that situation.

Committee Member Vericella suggested business owners and their employees get free passes for the parking garage and tenants got a discounted rate for the parking garage.

Mr. Rasmussen stated there were 1000 spaces in the Lincoln deck and the 400 in the top two are empty.

Committee Member Stiller stated that there is a plan to move forward with a parking study, probably in next year's budget.

Chairperson Buragas brought up catalyst projects such as hotels, libraries, and a children's museum.

Mr. Hales stated the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan talks about the infrastructure needs on Center Street including street lighting and stated that we really lack a public plaza.

Committee Member Manna suggested taking the 400 block as a pilot block for 12 months and we block this off. We take the parking that is in that block and put it in the two Frontier lots and see how it goes.

Chairperson Buragas stated she would keep the running list and keep working on it.

## 6. Adjourn