

Downtown Network Board minutes

February 17, 2016

WHO:

Co-Chair Deb Dodge, Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Paul Cavalli, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Robin McIntosh, Tom Peaco, Don White, Town Manager Pat Finnigan, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Wilson, Community Development Director Karen Brace.

ABSENT: Bernice Berger, Jill Lang, Meg Quijano, Jennifer Temple.

MEETING PURPOSE:

To build collaboration utilizing community assets to strengthen and energize Camden's downtown.

KEY THINGS DISCUSSED:

- Minutes were accepted (Motion by Cindy, Deb, Unanimous).
- Team Reports:
 - (Paul) Promo Team met with Broadreach Rep Michael Geneseo. Reviewed four themes: Motor tourists, emerging businesses, luxury travelers and young people moving back to open businesses or join family businesses
 - (Paul & Deb) Design Team street light test on Atlantic Avenue to run from May through fall. Also, working on Opera House lighting. Looking for small investment/high impact projects that could be done on the Public Landing.
 - DEVT / CEDAC – looking at most efficient and effective structure.
 - Projects include a survey of businesses and looking at the Opera House fee structure for major conferences, Shop Second Saturday initiative
 - Welcome for new businesses on May 19th.
- Nightlife in Camden – role of Opera House, places for young people to stay late. Making Camden attractive for a 22-23 year-old to want to live, work and stay here. Impact of noise ordinance on local establishments.
- Broadening our membership.
 - Motion to invite Tia Anderson (Deb made motion, Cindy 2nd, unan.)
 - Matt Brown had declined as he will be incoming chair of the CABG.
- Sustainability of Camden's festivals
 - Number of volunteers available
 - Sponsorship funds to support festivals, possible contingency fund
 - DNB's role to help sustain and support Camden's festivals.

DECISIONS MADE:

- To extend an invitation to Tia Anderson to join the Downtown Network Board.
- To look at the nightlife of Camden as it relates to young people.
- To take on a role in the sustainability of Camden's festivals, studying volunteer base for committees and availability of sponsorship money.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

March 30, 2016, 11:30am.