

Attendants: Tom Schommer, Tom Higginbotham, Lonn Atwood, Mark Hall, Les Mann, Darrel Novacek, Webb McNally, Dick Wozniak and Pam Carlson.

Atwood called the meeting to order; minutes were reviewed, Atwood asked for a motion to approve minutes, Hall made the motion, Schommer second motion approved.

Atwood gave a review of those board members who have selected to be liaisons for the nine sub-committees for the RiverWalk project, they are: Trails – Mike Brogan; Recreation - Mark Hall; Promotions – John Stappert and Les Mann; Design – Paul Pflueger and Dick Wozniak; and Funding – Darrel Novacek; Housing and Retail – Webb McNally. Atwood will ask Tom and Sue to consider the Public Works committee as they are already on that committee. Chris Carlson showed interest in Riverwalk. Officers will have their duties to perform and will not be asked to be liaisons, Jim Miller-chair, Troy Strom-vice chair, Lonn Atwood-secretary and Clark Froehlich-treasurer. Liaisons are asked to meet with committee chairs; they will have a list of committee members and coordinate a meeting time. Committees need to continue gathering data to enable them input on the design firm and funding options.

Hall reported that he did not attend the trails meeting, however, Brogan held one two weeks ago, several of the committee members are involved in the Cowboy trail, so are very familiar with what needs to happen. Discussion was made on how to prepare for the changes in the intersection near Roman Packing, how this change will affect the extension of the existing Cowboy trail into the city and downtown. Options under consideration include: Retro fitting the Via Duct to go over the existing railroad tracks that separates the trail from Omaha Ave, or city's consideration of heading east along the tracks to 1st, however, not a good option, no room for trail and goes by undesirable business such as livestock market, or go east to 7th street and follow the tracks into downtown, which could potentially be used as a green corridor leading travelers to downtown and the shared facilities if located at the Norfolk Ave. and 7th street junction. This option could be used for the safe routes to school grant, which would also connect the ball fields at Ta-ha-Zouka Park; this is the most unspoiled approach to downtown. Dick Johnson is currently working on the Roman's situation, need to get the right people to the table to assure things get done right and not have to go back and retrofit things later; this is part of the comprehensive plan for the city. Schommer stated his thoughts that the viaduct route would show incoming travelers that this is a friendly place to be. Atwood added that it would also show the community is a safe one and the viaduct is already lit. He has had many conversations with city officials and states that anything can be worked if out if you have a plan in place, just need to point out the advantages to our way of thinking. Future goals: will continue to address city concerns, make this a seamless and tangible project.

Novacek reported that he has met with Al, Dan, Mark, Tom and Jim and they agreed that the Meet & Greet reception would be a great kick off point, showing common ground to attendees and committee members. He has been in contact with a variety of business owners and many have shown excitement and a desire to contribute financially. Atwood has provided him with listings of donators for the college expansion and the hospital. Small businesses will not be able to contribute high dollars, but it will add up, will call upon the civic organizations to contribute. A letter is being drawn up to ask the Kiwanis to donate \$1000 per year for the next five years. When we reach the \$75-80K threshold we could contact the city for funding and then hit up the larger businesses next, all numbers and benchmarks are subject change by group. Novacek announced that Mark and Kathy Hall have donated an additional \$1,000 to the project and that he and Linda plan to donate \$1000, with Courtesy donating something as well. Discussion was made on comments heard about the city funding everything; group would like to see the city get behind the project. This project will be privately funded primarily and that we are selling Norfolk to investors.

Atwood passed around a rough draft of the brochure that is in the works. Ferguson suggested a professional look to the brochure when approaching the larger donors. Chris Amundson is working on a larger brochure, would like to have this done by the meet and greet so we can start the solicitation process soon. Selection committee will be meeting on Thursday morning (7:00 am) to come up with questions and information that will be used to conduct interviews for design. Interview will take place on the 19th & 20th of March.

Atwood reported that the city has stated that they are unable to do anything, as they are looking at a possible 15 million dollar bond issue. The recreation committee met and discussed what they can do to affect this to prevent it from being a stopping point and address the recreational needs by partnering with the recreational groups that have issues in the fore front now. Atwood submitted bills paid by Jean Atwood and an outstanding bill from Power Computing for the website. Discussion was made as to the continuation of the website and whether the funds were available to pay the bills. Bills were approved for payment as well as the continuation of the website. \$500 was received from Sheryl Johnson with the trails committee and they want to continue to play an active role. Discussion was made as to where and when the Meet & Greet Reception should be held. This would be a time to thank the committee members for all their hard work and also be a good time to present the master plan. It may be better to wait until this can be done; along with the brochure which could then be distributed among the attendees and committee members. Atwood to look into a no charge/low cost venue, possibly outside. Action was tabled until next meeting. Discussion was made as to time and date for next meeting, it was decided that meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month. Next meeting will be held April 1, 2008 at noon at the Country Café.

Froehlich made a motion to adjourn, Pflueger second, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Carlson, Chamber Staff Support