

**Downtown Revitalization
Friends of Downtown Advisory Team
Meeting Notes ~ April 14, 2009**

Friends of Downtown Advisory Attendees: Larry Weber, Carrie Follis, David Brisham, Randy Bank, Patricia Beckham, Jared Brickman, Marion Ven, Bev Lucas, Adam Hartke, Kathy Demuth, June Moses Patterson, Richard Gottspour, Julie Gottspour, Elizabeth Stevenson, Gerry Domitrovic, Beverly Domitrovic, Dick Honeyman, Megan Buckmaster, John Willoughby, Craig Simon, Emily Hesse, Cathy McCaleb, Nick Parrott, Jason Dilts, Deb Hoyer, John Belford, Larry Brown, John D'Angelo, Paul Rosales, Kelly Watkins, Jackson Hill III, Harold Payne, Michael Loop, Derek Tucker, Ronda Nusbaum, Steve Anthimides, Karen Carvens, Chris Hurst, Nathan Diedvich, Joann Hartig, Carol Skaff, Alan Kennedy, Nicole Howerton, Drew Meek, Janet Miller, Cindy Claycomb, Tom Carr, Marsha Carr, Thomas Witt, Mary Eves, Barry Owens, June Huie, Collen Allen, Sharon Fearey, Deborah Fisher Stout, Cathy Holdeman, Arleigh Aldrich, Nate Ohmie, David Follis, Denise Gunkel, Ben Grisamore, Ted Ayres, Nancy Hamel, Rick Cline, Rebecca Jo McNelly, Colby Stull, Jennifer Comes, Faye Reeder, Pat Randleas, Joe Johnson, Leslie Harvey, Ed Hayniz, Carl Brewer, Jeff Fluhr, Sharon Mallory, Charlie Claycomb, Suzie Ahlstrand, Diane Longfellow

Welcome & Purpose of the Meeting

Mayor Brewer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The purpose of the meeting is to dream about downtown Wichita and what we want it to be.

Case for Downtown

Jeff Fluhr presented information on the Case for Downtown. It included information on what is currently going on in downtown and the opportunities ahead of us.

- We are building our identity
- We have a lot of "wins"
- We are building upon our investment
- We need to determine how to keep moving forward; how to connect the assets we have built – Old Town, INTRUST Arena, River Front, Water Walk
- We need to identify strategic development initiatives
- We can learn from other communities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, Raleigh, Kansas City, Oklahoma City
- We need to create the environment businesses can build upon
- The goal is how to take a 20 year vision and make it happen in 10 years.

Invitation to Dream

Charlie Claycomb invited everyone to share their ideas about Wichita's downtown.

Comments & Discussion

- Outdoor facility on the river for entertainment that could be used for the symphony
- Permanent structure for use by the Farmers' Market
- Parking is a problem
- Revitalized art district
- Concentrated retail
- The city should work with the Northern Flyer rail service to bring people into downtown
- Need a downtown that attracts young people
- Residential that is affordable
- Get the residents – the rest will come such as grocery stores
- Automated parking garage
- On a daily basis we have tourists from all over the world coming to Old Town to see what Wichita is all about. We need to think about retail. We need stores in a concentrated area.
- Q line needs more emphasis - publicize routes.
- Pedestrianize downtown
- Clue everybody in on what we have downtown – talk up what we have – it's a well kept secret
- Need a place for homeless to call home – permanent housing
- Arts community is key to economic development in downtown – Soho model in NYC – need to have an alternative neighborhood – Delano has a lot of potential
- City help in bringing buildings up to code
- Mass transit
- Continuing abatements of what we already have – pro-active clean-up with vandalism
- Architecture – we have some modern buildings that will be future icons such as the library and the Bank of America building
- Retail downtown has to be something you can't find elsewhere in town
- Concern for the music community – local musicians should be part of the arena shows – perhaps opening acts
- Performing arts district from Broadway to Old Town
- Young people would come to performing arts events

Charlie Claycomb mentioned next week there should be a blog on-line and invited everyone to add their thoughts. He also asked for a show of hands in support of a downtown plan. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of a plan.

Adjournment & Thank You

Everyone was reminded to sign-in to receive updates via email and complete and return their "Invitation to Dream Cards".