

MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Boring, Steve Rank, Tammy Maisetti, Tom Slater, Don Phillips, Norma Reed, Susie Fagundes, Brad Morad

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Bart Barringer

GUESTS: Mayor Ted Brandvold, Raul Garcia, Rita Gallegos

MODESTO POLICE DEPARTMENT: Lieutenant Brandon Gillespie

STAFF: Nancy Young

The Downtown Improvement District Board of Director's Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Tom Slater moved to approve the March 16, 2016, minutes of the Downtown Improvement District Board of Director's meeting. Susie Fagundes seconded. Unanimous approval.

CORRESPONDENCE – Staff reported that all correspondence has been delivered to the Board of Directors.

Introductions were made.

MATTERS FOR THE GOOD OF DOWNTOWN

Mayor Ted Brandvold – Mayor Brandvold spoke about his 100 day review of the City's budget. He will put the budget into a format of where the City stands after the review. This review will be completed by June 30th. The 2016/2017 Budget starts on July 1st.

The Mayor reported that citizens are saying the City is not prudent with the City's funds.

Mayor Brandvold is looking into reprioritizing the City's budget to get more Police on our streets.

After this process, the mayor will work on Economic Development for our City.

Tammy Maisetti stated she believes Mayor Brandvold is going in the right direction. Tammy believes it is nice for this mayor to believe in honesty and transparency.

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Mayor Ted Brandvold Continued – Mayor Brandvold explained he wants to be open and honest with the citizens of Modesto.

David Boring defined the Downtown Improvement District as promotion and clean-up of downtown. We are here for the business owners. The Downtown Improvement District and Downtown Modesto Partnership are separate organizations with the partnership representing the Property Owners and the District representing the Business Owners.

Both groups have the same vision of what we want for downtown.

Gallo Center for the Arts Report – Raul Garcia reported on what is happening at the Gallo Center for the Arts. The members will be able to purchase show tickets on May 17th and 18th and the public on June 13th.

Raul also reported that some of the trees in the Gallo Center for the Arts Plaza now have lights on them.

David Boring explained that people are impressed with what Gallo is offering.

Raul also reported on the school programs offered at the Gallo Center.

Raul also mentioned that The Gallo Center is kicking off their own theatre program with local talent/paid actors.

Tammy Maisetti commented to the Board to look when the buses are at the Gallo Center with all those school kids and tourists who come to attend performances at the Gallo Center.

Downtown Safety and Merchant Watch – Vagrancy downtown is the biggest topic of conversation. The officers working downtown now are Tom Fara, Mike Hammond and Sgt. Tom Ciccarelli. Sgt. Ciccarelli's e-mail address is ciccarellit@modestopd.com. Contact him if you need help (non-emergency) or have a question. The Police Department's main focus is downtown, McHenry Avenue and City Parks.

The homeless are unplugging the lights on the trees at the Gallo Center for the Arts to charge their cell phones, and also, they are storing their belongings behind the bushes. Gallo Center has trimmed back their bushes and put caps on the plugs. The Bike Officers are patrolling the plaza of the Gallo Center.

Parks and the Modesto Police Department will be cleaning out Beard Brook Park starting at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Lt. Gillespie explained that the shelters have vacant beds available. The Gospel Mission does not allow animals, so many don't want to stay there.

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Downtown Safety and Merchant Watch Continued - The Gospel Mission is looking into kennels for the outside area to accommodate people who have pets.

Tom Slater mentioned that Modesto did a survey about 20 years ago that stated we had approximately 3,000 homeless back then. Tom also mentioned people who are arrested and booked into the Stanislaus County Jail are then released here in downtown regardless of their home city. He asked why we can't take them back to the city they were arrested in. Tom wondered if we could pay Uber to take them back to the City they were arrested in. It was mentioned this problem will end in 2017 when the new County Jail will open out on Hackett Road.

Lt. Gillespie spoke about cameras and the Real Crime Time Center. The Center should be open in May.

Downtown Modesto Partnership – Josh Bridegroom had a conflict and could not attend this meeting.

Graffiti Car Parade – Susie Fagundes reported the Car Parade is on Friday, June 10th, starting at 6:30 p.m., and after the Parade will be the Park n' Shine on J Street from 10th to 12th and 10th Street between I and K Streets, I Street from 10th to 12th, and 11th and 12th Streets between I and J Streets. We will not use all these streets if we don't have enough cars. After the cars are parked, we will open up any streets we aren't using. We will have music in Tenth Street Plaza, and the downtown restaurants will be open to serve food and beverages to our guests.

Downtown Improvement District Budget Approval 2016/2017 – Staff explained that there was no change in our revenue from last year, so our budget will remain the same with no changes.

Don Phillips moved to approve the 2016/2017 Downtown Improvement District Budget. The total budget amount is \$173,498. Tom Slater seconded. Unanimous approval.

X-fest Update – The city has given the promoter Chris Ricci a list of conditions. The mayor has not seen the list. Mayor Brandvold would encourage the people who oppose X-fest to attend the City Council Meeting. There has been a poor turnout of people who oppose the event. They are calling or e-mailing the city in opposition, but they need to attend the meeting. Those attending the meeting have been community and business members who are involved in X-fest.

Tom Slater stated almost all in attendance at the City Council Meeting except three (3) or four (4) work for X-fest. Tom believes there are great places to have X-fest besides downtown, such as the Fairgrounds or MJC Campus. Tom stated there isn't any other city in the US that allows a private event to fence off public property for no rent. Tom Slater wants downtown to be known for something better than a drunken festival.

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X-fest Update Continued - Steve Rank stated we need to get an accurate poll of how our downtown businesses feel about X-fest.

The mayor reported he had heard from several businesses against X-fest that are not downtown.

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Norma Reed stated she is against X-fest. She explained that she did not receive any help with her property from Chris Ricci. She believes it is not a good idea to allow X-fest.

Susie Fagundes explained that she has not taken a stand because she doesn't know all the details enough to take a stand.

Steve Rank moved to poll the businesses within the Downtown Improvement District boundaries from L Street to G Street and 9th Street to 16th Street. We will ask the businesses if they are for or against X-fest, or no opinion one way or the other. We will present the poll results at the City Council Meeting on April 26th. Don Phillips seconded. Unanimous approval.

The Downtown Improvement District Board is not taking a position for or against X-fest at this time.

Chef Michael from Galletto's Ristorante explained how this X-fest versus Galletto's started. No access to their building meant they had to move a wedding that they had booked in advance. Chef Michael was very clear that they are not against X-fest, they would just like it moved.

Love Modesto – Staff reported that we have a group volunteering to spruce up downtown for Love Modesto. Staff invited the board to join her and Jeffrey along with the Love Modesto volunteers on Saturday, April 23rd, at 8:30 a.m. on I Street.

Art Walk – Staff reported she is now managing the Art Walk for the next six (6) months. Sandy Venemen from The Chartreuse Muse Gallery and School has started a Passport to the Arts where visitors go to all the locations on the Art Walk guide and get their Passport stamped. Then, we have a drawing for two (2) movie tickets and dinner at one of our downtown restaurants.

Music in the Plaza – Staff reported the Music in the Plaza had started last Friday night, April 15th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Music will continue with the last one scheduled September 9th.

MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA – Brad Morad mentioned bringing the Downtown Sampler back. He believes we don't have to pay the restaurants \$650. Brad explained that he pays to be in the Edible Extravaganza. David mentioned that the Downtown Partnership was looking into starting an event like this and suggested working with them. The Downtown Modesto Partnership has four (4) times our Downtown Improvement District budget. We can work in concert with them to bring more events to downtown.

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ISSUES THAT NEED DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT SUPPORT

None

ADJOURN

1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Young