

DOWNTOWN PROPERTY OWNERS

Meeting of January 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Olsen at 4:08 pm. Those present were: Kim Olsen, Steve Bruggeman, Stacy Wagner, Barb McKay , Kay Foster, Bruce Simon, Randy Hafer and Ed Turner.

It was reported that there is a \$2,913.21 balance in the bank account. The committee thanked Barb for her work as treasurer of the group and discussed the need to appoint a new treasurer. Dues are \$55 for membership from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12.

Old Business: Randy Hafer commented that the **bridge over the railroad** is proceeding and that toward the end of this month it will be presented to stakeholder groups and then to the City Council. Two options are available for assessment...a lift scheme or a ramp. The bridge has been purchased and inspected and will be placed at approximately 25th & Minnesota. There is an \$830,000 budget total to include all costs related to railroad issues. The deck will be 26' above the tracks. The city will eventually be responsible for maintenance. The hope is to begin work in late spring with a 60-90 day construction period.

It was also noted that the diagonal parking on Minnesota Avenue has been painted but signage is not yet up. It will be a 2-hour parking area.

Bruce Simon mentioned that the State has assumed responsibility for **snow removal** on 27th Street and other state highways. There was also discussion about talking to the City Council members about equalization of **street maintenance** district assessments citywide. It was felt that the goal should be to have one combined district. It was commented that it would be good to have Lisa Harmon and Greg Krueger attend the meetings to hear property owner concerns. It would also be helpful to have updates from them on such items as the proposed new parking garage. There was a suggestion that we work with the DBA advocacy committee in promoting property owner concerns.

Updates: The **downtown shuttle** is under study with a potential pilot project more than likely. It is hoped there will be a one-year test in a portion of the downtown. It would be a free ride.

The **library** construction will be out to bid in mid to late March and a groundbreaking should be approximately 6 weeks after that.

Stockman Bank will be open soon and the conference room may be ready for our use in February.

There is no news at this time as to when the **Federal Courthouse** will be completed.

The city continues to work on the sale of **Park IV**. It was moved and seconded that this committee send a letter to the City Administrator with copies to the Council to move the sale process along and make the profit from it available for more parking structures.

Randy commented that work on the **Tracy Lofts** on Montana Avenue will begin in February. This will add another 19 lofts into the downtown housing market. It will be a historic tax credit project and LEED certified.

Randy also suggested that we advocate for more beautification of the entryways into the downtown, i.e. near 6th & 27th Streets and on Montana Avenue and S. 27th Street where trees previously planted have been lost.

Prior to the end of the meeting Ed Turner was unanimously elected to the board of the Property Owners for a 2-year term and to serve as treasurer for the next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Foster, substitute secretary.