

Central Manitou Springs Business Improvement District (BID)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2016

Present: Jessie Cormaney, Tim Haas, Jay Rohrer

Absent: Neale Cully, Chuck Englund

Staff: Leslie Lewis

A regular meeting of the Central Manitou Springs Business Improvement District (BID) Board of Directors was held Wednesday, May 18, 2016 in Manitou Springs City Hall City Council Chambers. The meeting began at 9:07 a.m. Without a quorum, no official actions would be taken.

A. Action Item: Approval of April Financials

Without a quorum, no action could be taken on the April Financials.

B. Discussion: Board Openings

Members were asked to write letters to City Council requesting reappointment to the Board of Directors. Staff suggested a work session with City Council be requested to discuss things that had not been done for years, such as a MOU, though things that had been previously included in the MOU are still being taken care of the way they had been lined out. Potential changes to trash service, including bear proof cans and recycling, in downtown were discussed.

Leslie has spoken with Shemi Shlomo, Flying Eagle, regarding the open positions on the board. Shemi also mentioned that Jay Carson, Mushroom Monday, might also be interested in serving on the board.

C. Discussion: Downtown Cleaning

Jason Hernandez is picking up trash very early in the morning and then power washing from 7 am until 10 a.m. In 2015, Master Blaster was hired to do an initial clean with their larger system and then the BID was just keeping up with cleaning. This year, the BID is removing the winter grime so it is taking longer to get through that initial cleaning. Staff does believe Jason will get faster.

Mayor Nicoletta brought a petition has taken a petition to the Mayor with signatures requesting the BID hire Brandon Lee Richards again. Brandon Lee had taken the petition around, many of the signatures are of people from downtown but some are residents, and then given it to the Mayor. Brandon Lee told some of the business people that the BID had hired an out of state landscape company to hire him. The landscape company that took over snow removal did so when we had large snow storms in December and January and received complaints that the sidewalks were not being cleaned.

Staff understands there is a contract for the sale of the Ancient Mariner and believes it is for the Marilyn's building as well. The second person that was trying to open a business in the dulcimer shop building has stopped that pursuit. Getting the awning frame that is falling off taken care of was on the list of improvements prior to the season. The City doesn't have a Code Enforcement officer yet so Leslie will contact Bud Ford and ask him to take care of that. The space that Enter the Room is in also looks abandoned. Leslie understands their lease was not being renewed and they will be moving. The only other vacancies in downtown are up Ruxton Avenue. The House of Jerky is moving in next door to Mike Casey (Homes of Manitou) in the building he purchased.

Tim reported that the traffic patterns for business in downtown have changed. His stores on the west end of Manitou Springs have higher foot traffic now than the Manitou Outpost in the 800 block which used to be reversed. He wondered if other merchants in that area are experiencing the same thing. Leslie will reach out to businesses in that area and ask about business.

The free shuttle is now running. The BID map is at the printer. Leslie needs to talk with Dave Wolverton about changing the map board at the Wichita Lot. The mural on the Manitou Lofts & Shops building is coming along very nicely. Jay reported their two vacation rentals are doing well. They had put a 3 night minimum on the properties which they are receiving and advance bookings are up this year.

City Council authorized hiring two uniformed officers, either El Paso County or extra duty Manitou Springs Police, for foot patrol downtown from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning May 24 through September 5. They are also trying to still have interns as well. Jay reported that the deputies cannot enforce municipal ordinances but can enforce state ordinances. He further stated that most of the municipal ordinances have a state ordinance as well. City Council has authorized other positive activities in downtown to displace the negative activity. They are also doing some environmental change things (fencing in the planters) to discourage loitering.

The meeting ended at 9:52 a.m.