

Design Committee Meeting Summary

1 May 2019

Present: Wayne Allgaier, Jean Doyle, Mabelle Lee, Sophie Smith

Status of projects to be accomplished in 2019 (with name of responsible committee member in parentheses):

- **Sidewalk flower planters** (Mabelle Lee). Mabelle has planted each of the planters. We have not been able to find a volunteer to water them, so Mabelle has been doing that, which is a bit of a chore. She will be looking into the cost of a mobile water container, which will help. Sue is talking to the owner of the Potomac Street Grill to place appropriate plants in front of his business. There is enough money left in the original grant to buy fall plantings, after which we will need to find another source of funds to do this.
- **Pocket Park rehabilitation** (Mabelle Lee). Mabelle has completed painting of the bench, and Karin has completed most of the shrub and tree trimming and other landscaping. She will complete planting in the back of the park soon. Karin would like to keep the compost in the back of the park, but we would like to see this reduced for aesthetic reasons. Sophie will talk to her about that. We would also like to see something done with the rather drab back wall (which is beyond the scope of the current project).
- **Letter to the mayor** re: Rehab projects on City property (Wayne Allgaier). A letter drafted to the Mayor and City Administrator was presented. There was general consensus that it would be better for us (perhaps Wayne, Diane, and Sophie) to sit down with them to discuss our proposal, and present them with a letter to which they could respond after they have had time to consider it. Sophie will talk with Carrie to arrange this.
- **Window display upgrades** (Jean Doyle). This will consist of two parts
 1. **Cleaning of windows of occupied buildings**. Brandon Barnard has offered to do this at a very reasonable price. Sophie has contacted business owners and many (but not all) have expressed an interest in participating. The owners will be responsible for the cost, which they will pay to Main Street; Main Street will then give one check to Brandon. If vacant building owners are interested in participating, we may have to subsidize them 50%. Wayne will contact Tom Jackson.
 2. **Window displays for vacant properties**. Jean is recommending the use of perforated window clings. Cost: \$33 for 2' x 3' ready-made picture. More expensive if custom made. May cost as much as \$100 per window to get what we want – need to consider a source of funding. There was discussion of using historic prints vs. “visionary” prints (showing potential use for the empty space,

to attract investors). May consider a mixture of the two. Next step: Survey of windows to determine which windows would be appropriate for this project.

- **County Main Street Art Project** (*Diane Ellis*). Nothing new to report at this time. Sophie continues to keep in contact with the County Main Street.
- **Triangular sign in Square Corner Park** (*Sue Blair*). Plexiglas appears to have been cleaned well enough that we won't have to replace it. Contents still need to be addressed so that it better meets the needs of tourists who stop by to look at it.
- **Community Legacy Grant** (*Wayne Allgaier*). We would like to make the following two recommendations in considering the awarding of grants:
 1. Preference be given to proposals that will assist owners to bring their properties up to code to meet occupancy requirements.
 2. Preference be given to applicants who are willing to provide a more significant financial match to the grant.

In the interest of time, the following agenda items were not discussed this afternoon, but will be discussed at our next meeting:

- Clarification of the Design Committee's goals.
- Our long-term vision for the downtown.
- The 6-year Strategic Plan.

Next meetings:

- Special meeting next Monday, May 6, 2:30 pm at Beans. Purpose: (1) Review of Pocket Park. (2) Walk down Potomac Street to inventory vacant windows. (3) Discussion of the three items not covered in today's meeting.
- We will be changing the date of our regular monthly meetings to the *third* Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be May 21 at the Main Street office.

Submitted by Wayne Allgaier, Chair