

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 22, 2024**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Friday, November 22, 2024 in room A213 at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. with Dave Johnson and Aaron Smith present. Darren Peterson and Megan Wiles were absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, City Engineer Alison Krupski, Parks and Recreation Director Savannah Wines, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Charlie Elliott, Communications Director Lexie Rock, Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head, SERVE Noblesville Executive Director Patrick Probst, Noblesville Creates Executive Director Ailithir McGill, Noblesville Main Street Board President Chris Theisen, Noblesville Main Street Treasurer Anne Turk, Noblesville Preservation Alliance Executive Director Joshua Glassburn-Ruby, and Hamilton County Historical Society Board President Jessica Layman.

Ms. Johnson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Theisen also serve on Noblesville Main Street's Design Committee. This meeting was considered an official meeting of that committee for Noblesville Main Street's purposes.

Mr. Smith welcomed those attending. He stated the December meeting would be cancelled because it was during the holidays. He stated this would be the last meeting of the year.

1) Status of Funds

Mr. Light stated in 2025, the Downtown Development Fund would have approximately \$800,000.00 in unrestricted funds. Mr. Smith asked if funding for the decorative crosswalks on Logan Street for the Federal Hill to Forest Park Trail had been encumbered. Mr. Head replied the crosswalks were currently in design and would be installed in 2025. Mr. Light stated the fund receives an allocation of \$500,000.00 per year, and approximately \$375,000.00 remains from prior years. Mr. Smith stated when the bond to implement the Downtown Streetscape is issued, the bulk of the \$500,000.00 per year would be used for debt service.

2) Report on Parks Department

Ms. Wines thanked those who attended the focus group for the Parks Five-Year Master Plan yesterday. Mr. Elliott stated a retaining wall at Forest Park near the pool would be replaced, and the green barn near Hobbs Station would be demolished. He stated the basketball court at Forest Park would be resurfaced. He stated playground updates at Dillon Park and an additional electronic monument sign at Federal Hill Commons are planned for 2025. Ms. Wines stated Hyde Park would be a 160-acre passive park with trails and a trail head. She described planned improvements at Finch Creek Park, including the Indiana Peony Festival headquarters.

Mr. Theisen asked about the new electronic monument sign at Federal Hill Commons. Ms. Wines replied the sign would be at the southwest corner of Logan Street and State Road 19. Mr. Theisen asked if the City would control the messaging on the sign. Ms. Wines replied, yes, there would be guidelines.

3) White River Rail Bridge

Mr. Light stated repairs to the rail ties on the bridge are scheduled for the first quarter of 2025. Ms. Johnson asked if the bridge would be repaired in time for the Main Street Duck Race. Mr. Light replied yes, the goal is to complete the repairs in time.

4) Logan Street Trail

Ms. Krupski stated it was decided that the trail should be included in a study of the entire Logan Street corridor from River Road to State Road 19, rather than as a separate project. She stated there was no definite timeline yet, depending on other projects. Mr. Smith asked how long it would take to scope the corridor project. Ms. Krupski replied it would depend on staff workload and the Streetscape project. She stated the goal is to finish the scope by the end of 2025.

5) Downtown Streetscape

Mr. Smith stated the streetscape project had been discussed for many years. He stated the committee started implementing a plan in 2017, but the pandemic paused the project. He stated discussions began again this year. Mr. Light stated the Administration had been laying the groundwork for the project. He commended Mr. Head for communicating with Downtown businesses. He stated the County was also an important stakeholder and he met with Director of Administration Lee Buckingham recently, and the Mayor met with Commissioner Steve Dillinger to discuss the project. He stated the County would like to see 8th Street improved for pedestrians from Logan Street to the County parking garage. He stated the Administration is working on design and a construction schedule that would work well and cause the least disruption, although disruption cannot be eliminated entirely. Ms. Krupski stated CrossRoad Engineers would be hired to design the project. She stated the firm worked on streetscapes for Franklin and Lebanon, and on the Monon Trail through Carmel. She stated she hoped to have the contract approved on December 3. She stated the schedule would be fast-paced and would begin with sewer separation in Downtown. She stated the scope of the project is very large, and it would be too much to expect construction all at once. She stated CrossRoad Engineers would help see where the best place to start would be. She stated the design should be complete by the end of 2026. She stated Ratio Architects also would be involved in the project. She stated the storm sewer construction would most likely begin at the river and move along Logan Street.

Mr. Smith suggested another field trip to Franklin, Indiana to see their Downtown. He stated their Streetscape took 16 years to complete, but it had been very impactful and has helped economic development in the town. He advised committee members that if they speak to residents who are hesitant about the Streetscape project, they should be pointed to Franklin and Lebanon, which also are county seats. Mr. Theisen stated Noblesville Main Street has an

excellent relationship with Franklin Main Street. He offered to schedule a tour. Mr. Johnson stated Downtown restaurants were full on a Wednesday night. He stated he hoped to give Downtown businesses some time before there is more construction. Mr. Smith asked when the last work on Downtown infrastructure took place. Ms. Johnson replied it was the early 1990s. Ms. Krupski stated the Administration plans to hire an engagement group to help Mr. Head with communication to businesses. She stated events may be planned to draw people to Downtown during the project. Mr. Light stated the City also would need to coordinate with the County while it expands the Judicial Center. Mr. Theisen stated it was good to get ahead of issues that are bound to come.

Ms. McGill stated she is excited for the project to begin again. She stated there would be short-term pain but long-term gain. She stated she believed the project would be transformational. Mr. Light stated the City would need to identify project ambassadors.

6) Other Business

Mr. Head listed upcoming holiday events. He stated there would be many Downtown Christmas events this year. He stated the Parks and Recreation Department had enhanced Federal Hill Commons with more lights, the ice rink, Santa, and other attractions. He stated events were planned for Small Business Saturday on November 30. He stated on December 6, there would be Deck the Downtown, and the Holiday in Lights parade would be the evening of December 7. He stated there were 50 entries in the parade this year, so it would be a long parade. He stated the route would be shorter this year, returning on Harrison Street to Ivy Tech. He stated it is a new tradition, but it was well received last year.

Mr. Johnson stated the Michael Treinen Turkey Trot 3K/5K walk/run would be held on Thanksgiving morning. Ms. Rock stated the Mayor's Youth Council would be collecting canned goods donations.

Mr. Theisen stated in order to maintain its charter with Main Street America, Noblesville Main Street must maintain a Design Committee. He stated last year Mr. Smith suggested combining the Main Street Design Committee with this committee. He stated it has helped Main Street. He stated this year is Mr. Smith's last year on the Main Street Board. Mr. Smith thanked Main Street for engaging with the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.



EVELYN LEES, CLERK
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE



AARON SMITH, COMMITTEE CHAIR

