

Meeting Minutes

St. Joseph Downtown Development Authority

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 1:00 PM St. Joseph City Hall

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Members	Bret Bortner Vicki Campbell Janet Dykstra Mary Goff Diane Wollenslegel	Jered Dowdy Stephanie Grill Tom Jennings Frank Walsh
Staff:	Susan Solon, Communications & Marketing Director Derek Perry, Director of Public Works and Service Kyle O'Meara, Intern Jim Champion, Owner of Ryebelle's Don Kessler, Main Street Property Owner	

Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on June 20, 2012 were unanimously approved, as presented.

Financial Reports: Solon reviewed the June financial report with the Board and the report was unanimously approved, as presented.

Agenda Items:

- **Movies in the Park.** Solon offered posters to be hung in businesses advertising the July 28th movie, which is *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*. Susan noted that there has been a great turnout and positive remarks received about movies being offered monthly. She reminded the board that the last movie for the season will be Labor Day Weekend, September 1st.
- **Public Art.** Solon inquired about the positive increase in foot traffic over the past two years, and offered discussion about the need to continue public art. The general consensus was to continue public art; that it is certainly an attraction enjoyed by many; that it should continue, even if the budget were decreased to eliminate some of the marketing costs.
- **Napier Avenue Detour.** Derek Perry, Public Works Director, reviewed the plan for the Napier Avenue construction project. He noted that with the weather fully cooperating, the project contractor is ahead of schedule; thus, starting tomorrow, July 19th, eastbound traffic will be detoured to Botham Avenue to Morton Avenue to Langley Avenue until further notice. Westbound traffic will be maintained on Napier Avenue.
- **Banners.** Bret Bortner noted that the banners are all in place, with the exception of the St. Joseph Today banner, which he is requesting be relocated to where the Heritage Center banner was previously. Susan noted that invoices were sent to all non-profits who participated.
- **Alleys/Rubbish.** Jim Champion brought up a concern with the "recycling" dumpster

located behind his business in the 400 block. He noted that its use is often over-extended and reported that businesses in the 300 block were just leaving their boxes outside the dumpster when it is overfilled. Derek Perry explained that a 4th recycling dumpster was very recently added to the downtown and is placed in the parking lot just behind Liskey Insurance; and should alleviate the overflow in the 400 block. Additionally, Derek reminded merchants to utilize their blue bins in the case of filled recycling dumpsters.

Secondly, Mr. Champion noted that the alleys are saturated with grease, and that one restaurant in particular power washes their mats outside causing the grease to run into the alley. Staff noted that they will speak to the owner of that establishment about the grease problem.

Another discussion item was replacing overhead utility wires with underground utilities. Staff spoke that similar discussions have taken place with regard to assessment, general costs, etc.; that would investigate examples and bring back general information to the next meeting.

Don Kessler requested use of the downtown person for the east side of Main Street. Susan noted that Mike Emlong will be asked to include that area in his cleaning duties.

Bret Bortner asked staff for cost estimates of the 3 different sized concrete planters currently in the downtown in regard to the Master Plan; reminded members of the next meeting to be held August 7th at 6:30 p.m. at The Pumphouse Grill.

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15th at 1 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Solon
DDA Director