

**Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission**  
**Minutes of Work Session**  
**January 2, 2014**

Present: Brockman, Cotter, Dailey, Kostrzewa, Smith (Chair).

Absent: Dailey, Holtgreive (Vice-Chair), Lents, Shellady.

Staff: Bean, Mrdeza, Murphy.

Bean reported that tonight's work session would focus on Downtown Priorities, Grid Streets and Public Input, noting that they plan to stay on track to get a complete draft prepared for the Planning Commission in March.

Bean provided the Board with handouts showing the proposed language for these three sections of the Master Plan.

Bean reviewed the proposed changes for the Downtown Section, noting that although there were no changes in the Goals, some of the strategies for reaching the goals were changed. Bean noted that he consulted with staff and also took into account the feedback from the Community Input Open House, the online survey and the joint meeting with the Planning Commission, DDB and CBD/TIFA. Bean noted that an addition to the Downtown Strategies to improve pedestrian access and walkability included implementing the City's Complete Streets policy in the downtown when/where appropriate and to use the Greater Mt. Pleasant Area Non-Motorized Transportation Plan as a reference guide.

Other changes/additions for the goal to draw more people downtown included a strategy to work with MSHDA to implement a rental rehab program. Under the goal of encouraging public and private partnerships to improve the Downtown, a strategy for establishing guidelines for design and maintenance of public spaces was added.

The Public Participation Process detailed the opportunities that were available to the public to offer their ideas and input, which again included the Open house, the online survey and in addition, several outreach meetings with area service groups. Bean also noted that input opportunities were announced on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, mass e-mail announcements and the City's website, press releases, flyers, etc. An appendix with detailed results will be included in the finished Master Plan.

The final piece that Bean discussed included the Transportation Plan. Bean outlined the work that has taken place in the past few years focusing on the Complete Streets concept. It was noted that in 2012 this evolved into a plan to create grid streets to help decrease traffic congestion and improve connectivity between Mission Street, CMU and businesses. Bean referred to the four different types of grid streets and noted that the City has already made some progress and has successfully added one of the proposed grid streets.

Mrdeza noted that the grid street has been well received by both the community and CMU and is being used regularly. Bean noted that there is not concrete schedule of when the others will be built but referred to the graphic of possible locations that have been identified.

Mrdeza noted that conversations have taken place with CMU regarding the location by the Special Olympics building as the next possible grid street project. CMU has shown more interest in this location knowing that the City would be making a significant contribution to the project.

Bean asked that the Commission look at the information he provided, and contact him with any feedback prior to next month's meeting.

Bean noted that next month we would discuss the implementation of the Master Plan and future zoning amendments.

#### OTHER

**PLANNING DIRECTOR:** Mrdeza provided an update on the search for a new Planning Director, noting we have held interviews and one of the candidates has been invited back for a second interview, which will include a presentation.

**M-2 CODIFICATION PROCESS:** Mrdeza reminded the Commission of the open houses that have been scheduled for 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2014 and on January 23, 2014 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**CROSSWALK SAFETY:** Discussion took place on concerns with crosswalk safety in the Downtown. Bill will take these concerns to the Traffic Control Committee and see if he can get someone from the Committee to attend a DDB meeting to discuss the issue.

Motion by Brockman, support by Kostrzewa to adjourn.

Work Session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.