

October 23, 2023
6:00pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendees: Heather Seay, Michelle Sebastian, Jessica Holbrook, Joe Gates, Tori Dellinger, Bill Knox, Candy Funderburk and Scott Attaway.

Heather called the meeting to order and determination of quorum occurred at 6:00pm.

A motion was made by Bill to approve the minutes from the September 25th meeting and it was seconded by Jessica. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

A. Veteran's Day Event.

Tori shared prices for various restaurants in the area which could be used for the Lowell Veteran's Lunch. It was decided that Hillbilly's Barbeque was the best choice. Heather shared that Choice USA Beverage would likely share beverages for the occasion. This year a couple of small gifts of our appreciation will be included with lunch. Volunteers will be dishing up the food and delivering it to our Veteran residents

B. Façade Grant Update.

Joe shared that there were many views online for the Façade Grant, but there were no applications filed. To promote the Façade grant for the next cycle, the city is considering having a direct mailing to all property owners. Social media will be another avenue used to try to reach more folks who may benefit from this opportunity. The next cycle deadline is February 28th.

C. Citizen of the Year.

Tori shared that there were no nominations made.

New Business

Bill made a motion to add an agenda item "C" (Consideration of conceptual downtown master plan.) and "D" (Discussion of Facility acquisition of 715 N. Main St.) to tonight's new business. Jessica seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

A. Lowell Community Committed Goals & Objectives 2024.

Tori shared the current By-Laws of the LCC. A brief discussion regarding any amendments or changes to the current by-laws occurred. Bill asked about #2 under Section IV / Powers and Duties as to how the LCC could "inform and educate the general public of the importance and need for economic development, city renewal programs, the importance of park and recreation programs, greenways, facilities, and services". As to how the LCC could accomplish this, may include setting up a booth at the events that the city sponsors. This would allow committee members to share information with the public. Social media posts to highlight projects and events could also be an avenue used. The LCC may also be tasked with setting goals

for action items they would like to have considered. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Tori asked about the rule of procedure as to how things are put on the agenda, who may request items added, and how many days out from the meeting is the agenda constructed. After a discussion regarding the questions posed, Tori asked whether there should be a change in the procedure to make the process more streamlined and efficient. It was decided that Tori was going to construct the agenda and then share it with LCC members for their approval the week before our meetings. Additional agenda items may be added by LCC members.

B. Treat Walk

Treat Walk this year will be Thursday, October 26th, from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. The LCC members, in addition to handing out candy, will share a handout about the committee and what we do. Thanks to Tori for putting together the handout for us.

C. Consideration of Conceptual Downtown Master Plan.

Joe shared the Conceptual Downtown Master Plan that City Council had drawn up. The plan is a representation of possibilities of what the future Lowell could be. If passed by City Council, it would be a guide only for a vision, rather than a plan set in stone. The plan addresses traffic in downtown by providing alternate routes around Main Street by possibly making changes to 3rd Street which could be a preferred corridor for motorists. Other changes addressing safer pedestrian traffic would include larger sidewalks and gorilla painting to visually narrow Main Street. These are some examples of how the Downtown area may be more conducive to outdoor dining and congregating socially. Changing road width and adding parking spaces are also a consideration. And the new City Hall and Police Department are an anchoring point to the plan. Michelle made a motion “That the LCC is in support of the Conceptual Downtown Master Plan”. Jessica seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

D. Discussion of Facility Acquisition 715 N. Main St.

The city of Lowell is now under contract to purchase the property of the Salvation Army Boys/Girls Club, which is located at 715 N. Main Street. City Council members are unanimously in support of establishing an indoor recreational center for Lowell. Some of the needed construction for this facility would include, but not be limited to, asbestos check and abatement, replacing the roof, and remodeling to make the facility ADA accessible. This facility could someday host our youth athletics, adult indoor basketball, and gym space for Seniors to use during the day, just to name a few uses. With the closing of the McAdenville YMCA on December 1st, this facility may fill a void for the wellness activities for our community. There was also some discussion of the possibility of a partnership with the city of McAdenville regarding the use and staffing of the new recreation center. Scott and Tori will be in meetings and discussions around this potential collaborative arrangement.

- E. Veterans Day Event on November 10th
This year volunteers will deliver lunch to veterans and their spouses.
Preregistration is required and may be done online or by calling City Hall.
Registration deadline is November 6th.

Staff Updates

- A. Tori shared a recap of the Fall Festival. Vendors, businesses, and festivalgoers appreciated the extended space for the fair, which included a section of Main Street in addition to First Street. The LCC and city employees reflected and discussed what changes/additions might be considered for next year. These discussions included the location of various vendors and the kid's area, the music area attendance, and how downtown business may be more involved and benefit from increased participation. A special thank you to Cristy and Tori who did the work behind the scenes to make this year's Fall Festival a success.
- B. Tori inquired about suggestions for the Grand Marshall for the upcoming Christmas Parade. A couple of names were mentioned and discussed, and the members of the LCC will continue to brainstorm ideas and share them with Tori.
- C. Joe shared some details around a conversation he had with a new resident of Lowell, and how this person was interested in getting more involved with the City and the events/activities that the City sponsors. Joe invited the resident to check out information for volunteer positions available, such as being a member of the LCC. This sparked a conversation around how we might encourage others to consider joining this committee. Anyone interested could find more information online at the Lowell website, and meetings are open to the public if you want to see for yourself what the committee does for the community.
- D. Joe shared several planning updates.
- Construction for the new Times Oil gasoline and convenience store, located at the I-85 exit 22, will be continuing for the next 6 – 9 months. This facility will also have a restaurant include, and the particulars regarding which restaurant has not yet been disclosed.
 - Lowell Woods, the new residential development accessible from Preston Place, is in the land clearing phase and soon will start the construction phase.
 - Willow Creek, near USA Choice Beverage, will include 172 townhomes and the developer will be True Homes.
 - The residential development that will occur on the land north of Poston Park has entered the Plats Phase.

Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill and seconded by Jessica. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned.

The next LCC meeting will be on Nov. 27th at City Hall.