

Downtown Improvement Committee

January 14, 2022

In Attendance

Marylou Blaisdell, Rich Lannan, Michael Buckley, James Tobin, Edward Hayes, Danielle Skelley, Tim Cummings

Accept of previous minutes

Financial review for committee –

- As of reporting from December 2020 account balance 175,192.84
- Discussion of 2022 items requiring funding
 - Additional lighting for holidays – look at side streets
 - Possible banner updates – will review with parks and rec
 - Downtown marketing and/or support of activities
 - Discussion to continue during March meeting

Discussion on outdoor dining and barriers for 2022

- What adjustments need to be made?
- How can the program work for all business owners downtown, discussion on how we all must work together to make the program work for all types of businesses and understand the needs of each business.
- From survey from Alex, our 2021 summer intern people who utilized outside dining loved it and preferred to eat outside. Stated a vibrancy to downtown that has been missing. Parking an issue for some people, others stated they can always find a place to park.
- DPW, fire and police all must be consulted for safety.

Discussion on homelessness downtown and impact on customer perception.

- Many business owners are stating they see an increase in panhandling.
- Coffee hours at church – have seen increase in garbage and storing of peoples belongings on sidewalks.

Pearl Street Update

- Tim reviewed with committee discussion he has had regarding updates to Pearl Street. A presentation will be made to BOA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.