

CARSON CITY DOWNTOWN CONSORTIUM
SUPPORTING CIVIC INVESTMENTS
WORKGROUP MINUTES
MAY 28, 2008, 5:30 P.M.
BLISS MANSION, CARSON CITY

- I. Attendance: Kimberly Macaluso
Cheryl Mathwig
Cyndy Brenneman
Pat Wells
Sara Jones
Joyce Harrington
Pat Glick
Frieda Ford
Robin A. Hodgkin
Nicole Block
Sharon Rosse
Donna Curtis
Tammy Westergard
- II. Review of Banner Objective:
The Banner objective was reviewed by the Committee:
Encourage government entities to plan for civic facilities so that these facilities can add to the synergy of the businesses and take advantage of the transportation, housing and other infrastructure offered in downtown.
- III. Review of Downtown District Needs Survey
The results of the Downtown District Needs Survey was reviewed. It was noted that of the 136 respondents, 80% felt the Downtown Merchants would benefit by arts and culture, 59% felt Downtown would benefit from a new library and 50% were aware of the downtown library vision in the old post office building. Additionally, 72% felt that more parks and open space was needed, 65% felt a Library was needed and 70% felt that a cultural district was needed in Downtown. 76% felt that there was a lack of public places to gather downtown and 53% felt that downtown lacked a sense of civic pride.
- IV. Update on discussions with the Government Services Administration regarding the Federal Building.
Tammy Westergard, Deputy Director for the Office of Business Development and Sara Jones, Library Director, updated the Workgroup on a recent trip to Washington DC where they spoke

with representatives from the Government Services Administration (GSA) and our congressional representatives and their staffs regarding the future of the Carson City Federal Building. It was noted that while the GSA represented that they were not interested in “surplusing” the Federal Building, they did support their “Good Neighbor Policy”. That policy includes the following statement, “Local governments are also catching on to the value of public spaces to their civic districts and downtowns. Public life – meaning active, vital public spaces – is essential to the economic and social well being of city centers”. Tammy and Sara asked that we be provided with a contact person within the agency to discuss improvements, changes and uses of the federal building. They felt all of their meetings were positive and anticipated a greater presence by GSA in future discussions regarding downtown.

V. Discussion and formulation of long term goals for civic investment in the Downtown District.

As part of the trip to Washington DC, Tammy and Sara also toured new library facility in Rockville, Maryland. Tammy provided a presentation on this facility, which also included a Business Incubator. They reported that this Library served as a catalyst for other development in Rockville. Shortly after the construction of the Library, new residential units were added along with other cultural / educational attractions and retail establishments.

Sara Jones reported on a grant application now before the Institute of Museum and Library Services for which the Nevada State Department of Cultural Affairs, Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada and the Office of Business Development are applicants. This grant will provide planning dollars for future cultural investments in downtown.

The Workgroup discussed the proposed boundaries of the “Roundhouse District.” The District could include property from Hwy 50 to Musser Street and from Stewart or Roop Street to Curry or Division. It was noted that the business community should be included in any discussion regarding the formation of a District. It was noted that identifiers in the way of public art should be included along the boundaries or internal to the District.

In terms of a Library facility, the workgroup felt that the following features should be included in a Library project:

- Compelling architecture
- Public space / gathering areas – inside and out
- Performance space

- Gallery space
- Public art
- Teen center
- Conference space
- Transit hub
- Business Incubator
- Space for state agencies, where possible.
- Retail

The workgroup has established the following long term goals:

1. Build a new Library Facility, which could include space for a business incubator, state agencies, and retail businesses.
 - a. Secure property for the facility
 - b. Secure partners in the facility
 - c. Secure financing for the facility.
2. Protect existing civic / historic infrastructure

VI. Discussion and formulation of short term goals for civic investment in the Downtown District.

The Workgroup has established the following Short-term Goals:

1. Ask that a GSA to appoint a representative to work with the Consortium to include the Federal Building in the Downtown Plan.
2. Work with GSA to ease security presence, ie fences, gates, etc.
3. Examine formally establishing the Roundhouse District ie, Special Planning Area, Cultural District, etc..
4. Work with private property owners within the Roundhouse District to secure property for future civic investment.
5. Talk with State and other government agencies about possible partnership / investment in the Roundhouse District.
6. Ask the Arts and Culture Commission to identify public art for the Roundhouse District.

VII. Discussion of future workgroup meetings, actions and assignments.

Linda Ritter agreed to begin work on the short term goals and once some progress was made, she would organize a future meeting.