



DNA Town Hall Meeting Notes 6pm, September 12, 2016 Downtown Central Library

Neighborhood Announcements

Bob Ray - Reminded everyone of the 78th congressional election. Amazing crawl, which is a bar crawl will be taking place in October. Jonathan also encouraged everyone to get out and vote since downtown is viewed as a neighborhood that doesn't vote.

An individual asked what our concerns are regarding NGA and jobs and so forth. Dana Kay said to connect with Isa Reeb with Project Connect and Travis Sheridan with Old North.

Marty Murray the new Democratic Committeeman introduced himself and told everyone to get involved.

Dana Kay announced Jared Opsal is celebrating 1 year anniversary as Executive Director of DNA and a birthday.

Alderman updates

Coatar- They are assessing improvements infrastructure with fiber Internet. The Convention Center is a priority. He is confident the hotel in the LaSalle building will move forward. He is also confident on TREX. He is looking at an infrastructure bank and how we can improve streets, sidewalk, improvements, etc.

Ingrassia - Sioux water pipeline is going on and can impact our drinking water. Stated that even though 17th street is being closed the residents did a good job of coming together to voice their opinion. There is a craft distillery seeking to open in Downtown West. Davis - She is working on updating rules of the board of alderman. Also helping a craft distillery bar open in downtown west.

Presentation on the Convention Center

Kitty Ratcliffe - have had some good conventions recently. Beyoncé was at the dome this past weekend. The focus is on using convention center for meetings and conventions. The convention center brings \$258 million in new money into the community. She gave a brief description of the convention center history.

Went over studies showing the peer cities we are competing against and why its important to expand. When we have conventions its new money coming into the economy. Right now we don't stack up in convention size, ballroom space, and the facilities need upgraded. They want convention attendees to walk and explore downtown but need to improve some of the edges of the buildings.

Conventioneers like the city and have a positive opinion of downtown. Kitty states we need to expand convention center facilities.



DSI Updates

Missy Kelly - highlighted the innovation district. Permit period has ended on Wash Ave. that prohibited open containers, motorcycles, and other quality of life concerns. CID is paying for secondary police from 2pm to 6pm. Safetrek mobile app is available for download. Josh Weise has joined DSI. He is from Dogtown and used to work in the Mayors Office.

Biddle House

Eddie Roth - Biddle House is now open. St. Patrick's Center is the facility manager. Conditions at 1400 Locust have deteriorated with camping out on sidewalk and bad activities. Believe some people came from recently cleared St. Mary's Hospital site and McGuire building. They are on the street due to the NLEC admission policies. They are also outside because they are guests at NLEC and don't really want to stay there and want to stay outside longer. Occupancy has been greatly reduced recently. 100 were recently estimated to be staying there, which is less than NLEC typically allows.

Seniors Count Initiative

Sister Mary Ann Nestle - Initiative for seniors on the ballot. Has it on ballot in 3 counties and needs it to pass since people are living longer. It provides assistance for the elderly.

Community Mediation Services - John Doggette - provides services for disputes in the community. Could be interpersonal or between entities. They help come up with solutions when people are seeing differences.

Ameren

Work is going on downtown to inspect manholes. They are replacing conduit and pipes. They are doing this to make sure electric supply is reliable, dependable, and more efficient.

DNA Committee Updates

Dan introduced the packaged liquor propose the Safety Committee is working on. It would place restrictions on single serve container of beer, wine and hard alcohol.

Upcoming events were announced and the meeting adjourned.