



Meeting Minutes

Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee

Springfield City Hall
225 Fifth Street, Springfield, OR
Jesse Maine Room
Monday, May 11th, 2009
6:00pm – 7:30pm

* The Committee attended the City Council Work Session prior to the meeting and viewed a presentation by Crandall Arambula.

I. **Attendance:** Robyn Sattler, Dan Egan, Karen Hageman, John Tuttle, Shannon Mudge, Tess Chedsey, Kathy Baker, Ted Corbin, Annie Hommel, John Thomas, Bob Keefer, George Crandall, Don Arambula, Jason Graf, Linda Pauly, Greg Mott, Courtney Griesel, Bill Grile

II. **Welcome/Announcements.**

Linda welcomed the committee and introduced the Crandall Arambula team.

The committee reviewed the agenda and approved the minutes from the November 12, 2008 meeting.

There were no public testimony requests.

III. **Work Session/Discussion.**

Dan Egan stated that some committee members are still confused about their two appointed roles: Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC) and the Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee. Staff explained that DURAC is not meeting now. DURAC meetings will resume after the Downtown District Plan process is completed.

George Crandall said that the committee's role will be key in the development and the implementation of the Downtown plan. The plan will be the committee's plan. The committee will evaluate and critique Crandall Arambula's proposal and will review and modify work products before they are presented to the Planning Commission and City Council. "The real work comes after the plan is adopted. The CAC will own and help implement the plan."

Don Arambula explained that they will do an education piece at each meeting to explain alternatives, then ask the committee to make informed decisions.

John Tuttle and Annie Hommel stated that Willamette Heights should be included in the study.

Dan said Willamette Heights used to feel more connected to downtown before the trees grew large. He would like to see examples of how cities make it happen. We have the lowest rated retail in the Metro area.

Shannon Mudge said the couplet killed downtown. He owns an online business and cannot find space to rent downtown.

Someone asked the consultants if the committee is the right size. George and Don said the size is right and that problems arise when committees are too small and made up of political appointees (e.g. Santa Fe).

George and Don stated a few preliminary observations and questions:

- The quality of the shopping environment is poor.
- Curb cuts take away on-street parking.
- Curb extensions are too big.
- Cobra head lighting is grim, too bright and industrial.
- We have a lot of bad awnings.
- Where do you take a visitor downtown?
- Where is the public square? Where do dignitaries speak? Where does the Christmas tree go?

Karen Hageman asked if there are quick fixes that can be done to show citizens we care. Jazzercise is bringing people downtown.

George said we shouldn't get stuck with planters, banners, etc. We need to think in broad terms. We want to bring developers along through the planning process so they are ready to go (e.g. Edmonton Station). Need to build momentum. Success creates success. The plan needs to be urgent. Vancouver's transition from one way to two way really helped retail. Developers need a contextual plan and certainty. The plan will demonstrate that Springfield knows where it wants to go and what it wants to be.

Dan said he went on a tour to view Mountainview's transformation.

Bob Keefer wants to see Downtown connected with the waterfront.

Dan said we need density/concentration of activity.

Annie asked about transforming crime infested areas. We need more eyes on the street, 18 hr day. Systemic changes are needed.

John Thomas suggested inviting Police Chief Jerry Smith to a meeting.

Dan said we need the WILL to change.

Don said we need to be organized, stubborn and directed and that BOLD plans excite people and get implemented.

IV. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.