

Downtown Action Plan Advisory Committee (DAPAC)
Meeting 34 minutes
Friday, October 19, 2018 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
North Miami Police Department Community Room

	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
1	Jason James Chair	X		
2	Rebecca Pelham Vice-Chair		X	
3	Max Wolfe Sturman		X	
4	Stuart Grant		X	
5	Michael Resnick	X		
6	Ismare Monreal			X
7	Dave Burney	X		
8	Michael McDearmaid	X		
9	Renald Fils-Aime			X
10	Adriana Martinez		X	
11	Sam Jean	X		
12	Sara McDevitt	X		
13	Estomene Dorcely	X		
14	Shereen Yee Fong Non-voting			X

1. Call to Order

- Opening remarks by Jason James, *Chair*, at 1:41 pm.

2. Roll Call

- *Whitney Taylor, Board Secretary*

3. Approval of Minutes

- *September 14, 2018*

4. Updates

- *Sam Blatt informed the board that Kevin Arietta and Paula Villegas will no longer be on the board, 1:43pm*

5. Special Presentations

- **Special Presentation by John O'Brien on Downtown Streetscape Improvements, at 1:45 pm.**
 - *Based on a previous council meeting, Councilman Galvin voiced his opinion for the downtown parking plan and suggested meeting with the downtown businesses to come to an understanding on the plans. Mr. O'Brien brought two different plans to the DAPAC meeting showing two options for improvements. Plan A would be the original proposal that would keep only 31 parking spaces and have more landscaping and wider sidewalks. Because of the major loss of parking, Mr. O'Brien went back to the consultants to create a new proposal, Plan B. In the new proposal, light poles would no longer be moved out from the sidewalk.*

The revised plan would take the parking from 31 parking spaces on the street to 70 parking spaces without any of the large trees being taken out of the new plan. Because of this, the same amount of shade will be given but there will be less grassy areas. More discussion is expected on Plan A and Plan B.

- DAPAC members and business owners viewed and discussed the difference between Plan A and Plan B including concerns for parking for customers and employees of the downtown businesses.
 - Michael Resnick stated that he will draft a letter for the downtown business owners to sign which indicates support for the project, regardless of whether it is Plan A or Plan B. Two downtown business owners in attendance voiced their concern with Plan A.
 - Motion made at 2:11pm by Michael McDearmaid for DAPAC to recommend Plan A and Jason James to speak to Councilman Galvin. Estomene Dorcely second the motion; Motion passed, 8-0
- **Special Presentation by Mohammad Qureshi, Associate Dean, FIU Chaplin Hospitality School, on North Miami Brewfest, 2:22pm**
 - Councilwoman Keys arrived for the meeting, 2:22pm
 - Mohammad Qureshi enlightened DAPAC members, Councilwoman Keys, and business owners on the Brewfest event which takes place on November 10, 2018. This event promotes the knowledge and the science of brewing.
 - Councilman Keys voiced her support for North Miami water at the campus and within the distilleries as a marketing tool
 - A downtown business owner, Rachel Benjamin, asked if there was a way for businesses to be involved in the event and also promote their business at the same time
 - Ms. Benjamin also raised a concern about parking, such as where intended parking will be along with if there will be spaces available for bikes.

6. Discussion Items

- **Downtown Streetscape Improvements, 2:47pm**
 - Councilwoman Keys reflected back to the Streetscape Improvements meeting that happened on 10/18 where she voiced support for cleaning up and improving the alleyways behind NE 125 Street. Councilwoman mentioned the need for LED lighting as well as Patrolling by the Police Department to enforce the idea and need of safety.
- **Update on Irons Manor Fountain & Liberty Gardens Park by Sam Blatt, City of North Miami Economic Development Manager, 2:42pm**
 - CRA has budgeted the full amount of the work for Liberty Gardens Park, but there was discrepancy on whether the item had been approved by CRA Board. Sam said that he would update and clarify at the next meeting.
 - Irons Manor was approved by the CRA Board and groundbreaking would be scheduled soon.
- **Update on 2019 Budget, 3:00pm**
 - \$1,000 for DAPAC including printing and food
 - DAPAC discussed the need to print annual report
 - DAPAC members evaluated the difference in paper style to use, Motion by Michael McDearmaid for heavier paper, seconded by Estomene Dorcely, motion passed 8-0

7. Sub-Committee Reports

- **Alley walkway, Sam Blatt**
 - Sam is working with Kevin Arietta and Vice-Chair Rebecca Pelham. Paving of road, light fixture will present to DAPAC in November/December.
 - Jason James pointed out the importance of timing. With this, he suggest the need to show progress per each meeting. This includes having Kevin Arietta in attendance and present the alleyway project by December
 - Councilwoman Keys expressed a desire for the alleyway to be improved and stated that she would like to be involved in the development of the project.

8. **Closing Remarks**

- Ms. Benjamin asked if there would be a restriction on City employees parking in front of the new City extension on NE 125 Street. Sam Blatt will look into it and get back to her.
- Downtown Business Owner JB asked how a member of the public can join DAPAC. Sam will reach out to her
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:14pm

9. **Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, November 9th (Location: Police Department Community Room).**

Staff Attended:

Sam Blatt, Economic Development Manager

Members of the Public:

Rachel Benjamin, Downtown Business Owner

JB, Downtown Business Owner

Minutes prepared by: Whitney Taylor

Online Resource: All agendas, minutes and reports are available online at:

<http://northmiamifl.gov/Departments/cpd/nomidowntown.aspx>