

City of Winsted
Downtown Vibrancy Commission
Winsted City Hall – Lewis Room
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
3:30 p.m.

Downtown Vibrancy Commission Members Present: Ms. Nancy Fasching
Mr. Chip Guggemos
Mr. Robert Hamilton
Ms. Tami Rosenthal

Downtown Vibrancy Commission Members Absent: Mr. Joe Swanson

Staff Present: Mr. Dan Tienter, City Administrator
Mayor Steve Stotko, City Council Liaison
Ms. Amanda Zeidler, Utility Billing & Payroll Clerk

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Ms. Nancy Fasching, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2) Staff Report

Mr. Dan Tienter, City Administrator, stated that the City Council is seeking applications for a vacant City Council Member position. He stated that information is available on the City of Winsted website, or members are welcome to discuss the position with him.

Mr. Chip Guggemos asked if there has been any follow-up with the projects that were initiated in 2015 with the Downtown Beautification Forgivable Loan Program. Mayor Steve Stotko and Mr. Tienter stated that there has not been any communication from the parties involved. The Downtown Vibrancy Commission discussed the project timelines and parameters and directed City Staff to contact the participants that have not completed the proposed project.

4) Old Business

a) Review and Discuss Opportunities Utilized in Other Cities

Mr. Tienter stated that there was discussion at the November, 2015 meeting regarding a start-up project, which evolved into a conversation about taking a step back and having a discussion about a strategic vision for the Downtown. As part of that, the Commission settled on a homework assignment, visiting other communities and bringing back information that could be utilized to encourage local development with a more rigorous and thoughtful planning process before inviting new and different businesses into the community.

Mr. Tienter encouraged each of the members to offer any thoughts or information regarding the practices and programs in other cities.

Mr. Guggemos stated that it may be easier to increase investment in what exists, rather than bringing something new to town. The Downtown Vibrancy Commission reviewed past practices to spur entrepreneurship and retail business in Winsted. Ms. Fasching stated that one business that has been present, and may be useful now is a hardware store. Mr. Guggemos stated that antique stores have been mentioned in the past, and may increase traffic Downtown, coming from the Luce Line State Trail. Mr. Robert Hamilton mentioned opening a yogurt shop, and discussed the success of a yogurt shop in a different city. Ms. Tami Rosenthal made a recommendation to have places for lessons or studios, so people can be active.

The Downtown Vibrancy Commission discussed business permitting and zoning in the Downtown.

Mr. Robert Hamilton asked if there are other educational institutes that can be catered to, so Winsted can host them in the field of healthcare, as well as other educational opportunities. Ms. Fasching stated that while thinking about educational opportunities, the Commission should think about ways to engage residents in participating in opportunities that are already available. The Downtown Vibrancy Commission discussed existing educational opportunities, as well as businesses that are creating new educational opportunities in Winsted.

Mayor Stotko highlighted education and healthcare in Winsted, stating that the City should capitalize on the resources that exist in both fields, as well as the success in the industrial field.

The Downtown Vibrancy Commission discussed the possibility of seeking investors for existing buildings that are open and do not have a business operating at this time. Mr. Tienter stated that there is state funding available for things, such as property acquisition, when there are other investors are involved.

Mr. Hamilton presented information regarding a project to revitalize the City of Cold Spring, Minnesota. The Downtown Vibrancy Commission discussed the information that was presented, and how the ideas can be implemented in the City of Winsted. Mr. Tienter stated that he will reach out to the City of Cold Spring prior to the next meeting, to solicit more information regarding funding and other information.

5) No New Business.

6) Announcements

a) Buffalo Orchestra – Saturday, June 18, 2016

Ms. Fasching stated that the Buffalo Orchestra will be performing on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Mill Reserve Park Amphitheater, and asked if the Downtown Vibrancy Commission would be willing to support and endorse the event, which will also involve several other civic groups, including the Winsted Arts Council and Winsted Holding Activities That Unite People (WHAT UP).

Mr. Guggemos made a motion to support and participate, if possible in the event that will be held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Mill Reserve Park Amphitheater. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7) Adjournment

Mr. Guggemos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

Dan Tienter

Dan Tienter,
City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Amanda J. Zeidler

Amanda J. Zeidler,
Utility Billing & Payroll Clerk
City of Winsted