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**TO DO LIST | SPECIAL DATES | ADDENDA | QUESTIONS**

**Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, Polk Co. Senior Center + Zoom, 6:30 pm**

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Courtney Ackerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristina Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Anthofer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick Holmberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colin Ashwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spencer Richardson-Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Auge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Stuyvesant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shannon Coryell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annelise Tarnowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6:34 PM**

**Board Business Meeting**

- Roll Call
- Consent Agenda - Vote Needed
  - Motion to approve: Spencer, Second: Ken | Motion carried unanimously, agenda approved

**New Business**

- Welcome Elected Officials
  - Carl Voss (City Council At-Large Member)
    - March 19th special election to replace Connie Boesen (because she was elected mayor). It's likely not to be a huge turnout, so please do come! It's the only thing that will be on the ballot. It's a city-wide At-Large seat, meaning the seat represents the whole city, not just one of the four wards.
      - The final filing day to be on the ballot is February 26th, Feb 27th will have mail-in ballots going out and you can start voting in-person Feb 28th.
    - Feb 22nd: is an all-day budget work session for the Des Moines City Council for FY 24-25. It's going to be a challenge to write a budget while the legislature is still in session.
  - Josh Mandelbaum (City Council Member for part of the Drake Neighborhood) - Here to talk about our transit system. A lot of conversation is happening now about the future of DART and how we fund public transit:
    - We are talking now about how (and whether or not) we maintain our current level of public transit.

- Part of why we are here is in part due to our funding formula with other communities. Other communities feel like they are subsidizing Des Moines service (where the bulk of the service takes place).
- Some unexpected things affecting DART funding:
  - Privatization of Medicaid has affected DART because they were previously paying paratransit and are no longer doing that.
  - Pandemic
  - Tax rollbacks
- The legislature gave us a local option franchise fee to be used towards transit service. This is not the most effective tool. The hotel motel local option could have been a little more effective.
  - Best way forward as of now: implement the 2.5% (2.5 cents on utility bills) franchise fee to maintain as much of the current service as possible. Under current projections that could help maintain this level into the future (and have a small reserve ready for when the Reimagine DART survey is complete).
- Reimagine DART study is happening now: comprehensive transit survey
- We have a spoke-and-hub system now. Having cross-town routes takes a long time to have an effect and have people pick up on.
- There will be more opportunities for the public to provide comments later on to the DART commission.
- DART All-Access partnership exists: some landlords and some employers provide bussing
- 57% of DART riders use it to get to work. 43% of DART riders come from a household earning \$20,000 or less. 85% of riders come from a household earning \$50,000 or less. State Fair access: 240,000 rides over those 10 days. Des Moines Public Schools require transportation for anyone 3+ miles from the school and they use that. Teachers also use it from the All-Access pass.
  - \$1.1 million from the schools for All-Access. Saves the school money and is good DART money.
- “I think we should maintain as much of the transit service as possible as we have today.”
- Chris Coleman - Des Moines City Council Member - Needed to leave, his note is attached below as an addendum below.
- City SCRUB days are coming up, all dates, times and locations are in an addendum below.
  - They can use some volunteers for these days
- Sadie Trytten - Neighborhood Development Corporation: Present the drawings for the 2211 University Ave site (former Kum & Go) + the architect is here, too
  - UA Station: Some things have changed: there was going to be a grocery store but they are not going to move anymore. There will be now work/live space.
  - 2 bed, 1 bed and studio. 34 total units, 12 units on top, 12 on middle and then 10 on the ground floor – 6 are work/live 4 are studio. Gym. Elevator access. 1 parking spot per tenant. Parking is 47% of the project.
    - 60% of the units are market rate. \$800-\$1,700 for rent.
    - 500 sqft for smallest studios.
    - The live/work will rely on some of the street parking for their customers.
  - How much workforce housing is needed for the city? - Connie, Josh and Carl all weighed in
    - From the Workforce Development Survey: The goal is 60,000 new units in 2040, bulk of them being workforce/market rate

- When the city aims for more density but we already struggle with parking, we need to understand a little more about how we fit into the overall picture
    - Being right off 31st or University are a little more dense
    - Could be try to step density down step-wise with townhomes or other middle-density living
- Jeff Wiggins – City of Des Moines Forest Avenue Project Overview and Comment Period
  - Here to talk about a project on 23rd Street – traffic study – **addenda below**
    - No major crash info “to write home about”
    - No major issues calling out here – the transformation would be pretty simple
    - Proposed 4 speed humps between Washington and Lincoln
      - For a 6 mph reduction, getting us to the 25 mph average
      - The distance of 400’ keeps people going slow. 600’ gap people speed up every time.
    - This all started from a petition from a neighbor in the corridor. 85%-90% are started by Council Members on behalf of people. This is one of the rare ones where the person petitioned and got 60% of the property owners or residents in the area to sign + need to have at least 500 vehicles per day at least to qualify.
- Parks and Rec - Anthony Leo (Filling in for Charles)
  - Seasonal jobs are hiring really well, they hire as young as 15 years old and the City pays for certifications and swimsuits for lifeguards
  - **FREE Summer camp registration opens April 1:**
    - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/summer\\_camp.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/summer_camp.php)
    - Hiring for summer camp, too: Summer Camp Supervisor, Season Rec Specialist, Rec Leader
    - 2 long sessions, and will be at 5 parks:
      - Columbus Park - 1921 SE 1st St, Des Moines, IA 50315
      - Drake Park - 2300 Drake Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311
      - Evelyn K. Davis Park - 1400 Forest Ave, Des Moines, IA 50314
      - Martin Luther King Jr. Park - 1650 Garfield Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316
      - Weeks Middle School Park - 901 E Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315
  - Youth sports and adult sports registrations are opening
    - Youth:
      - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/youth\\_sports.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/youth_sports.php)
    - Adult:
      - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/sports\\_leagues.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/sports_leagues.php)
  - The scholarships have been hugely helpful for families for these activities:
    - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/grasp.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/grasp.php)
    - Youth Rec through DMPS - \$5 activities
    - Greater Des Moines Rec Scholarship - \$5 activities and big discounts on garden plots, pool passes
  - Check the site for any updates on the ice rink, the weather has been making it tough to keep it at a reliable temperature.
  - Working on providing more adaptive sports: **June 4th adaptive soccer**

- Reichardt Community Recreation Center (Ward 1) Design Conversation + Public Meetings:
  - [https://www.dsm.city/business\\_detail\\_T6\\_R277.php](https://www.dsm.city/business_detail_T6_R277.php)
  - February 20th at the Jesse Franklin Taylor Education Center located at 1801 16th St in Des Moines from 6:00-7:30 pm
  - March 21st at the Jesse Franklin Taylor Education Center located at 1801 16th St in Des Moines from 6:00-7:30 pm
- City of Des Moines Family Fun Night - March 2nd
  - <https://secure.rec1.com/IA/des-moines-parks-and-recreation/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTI3MjA0MDI=>
  - Location: Pioneer Columbus Community Recreation Center - 2100 SE 5th Street
  - Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  - Cost: \$10 per person
- Community Updates
  - Don Burgmaier – sink hole in the street
    - He reported it in June 2023. City claims that the homeowner’s sewage system created the problem and that it’s a nuisance. Now the homeowner is being held responsible for fixing it. Don has filed a petition, stating that homeowners should not be responsible for fixing the street.
- Drake Report - [John Smith Drake University](#) VP for University Advancement
  - Ryan Arnold is leaving Drake and Des Moines to move to Austin in a VP role. He is from Texas and his wife’s family is in Austin. May not see this job re-posted until at least July of 2025.
  - John Smith will be our contact for now.
  - Spring semester has started and students are back.
  - Drake is in a comprehensive fundraising campaign.
  - Morehouse Residence Hall is getting a significant renovation to become a new student center + student offices.
  - Men & Women’s Basketball is doing amazing, use your community passes to come and watch!
  - March: Bucksbaum Lecture - March 27th - Liz Cheney - open to the public, free
    - Lucky Horse Watch Party? There is a Live Stream, likely at <https://live.drake.edu/>
  - Student Alumni Association: April 20th Paul Morrison Spruce Up Day
- [Terry Gearhart - Neighborhood Finance Corporation - Licensed Lender and non-profit - 4908 Franklin Ave.](#)
  - Incentivize homeowners to make improvements, refinance, energy audits, weatherization, insulation
    - Have helped 8,000+ families in Des Moines
    - To get full forgiveness of a loan, it relates to the household income and a percentage of the project. They are working with tax-payer dollars, they need to incorporate repairs into the project and be good stewards of the money.
    - More information: <https://neighborhoodfinance.org/faq/#all> and in an addenda below
- Jacob Schroeder from [Moxie Kitchen and Events](#)
  - Commissary kitchen rent-able for small food-related business-owners, also an event space (cocktail parties, graduation parties). Can seat 48, 67 standing.
  - Community-focused and supporting small businesses to keep Des Moines interesting and fun. Will be there to help small businesses fill the knowledge gaps they need in their business.
  - More info in an addenda below

## Old Business

- Terri Taylor - DNA Insurance

- Reviewed policy
- Motion to approve to pay the 2024 coverage: Motion: Kristina, Second: Shannon | Motion carried unanimously
- Policy in addenda below

## 8:09 PM - Board Business

- Executive Committee Update
  - Review of Financial Activities - Lori
    - Not much change in the bank account this month, a few memberships and a few sales
    - Contribution toward the Neighborhood Block Party Trailer. Help invest in that together to serve all the neighborhoods, even if they don't invest
      - They are asking for \$200
        - Motion to contribute \$200 - Motion: Kristina, Second: Shannon | Motion carried unanimously
    - Art Week Event and the application for Polk County Grant
      - Drake Neighborhood was granted a fellow (artist) and we got a puppeteer!
        - Friday June 14th from 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM with cleanup at 11:00 PM (Rain date: Saturday June 15th) - Looking to do "Magic of the Night" Night Parade. He will do different workshops for kids to make lanterns leading up to it. Neighbors can build flags and streamers. And the puppeteer is doing a giant-scale Goddess of the Night puppet.
        - Will also include a night market with artists and different food options.
      - We will be applying for a grant to cover the cost of food going for \$3,500.
    - Ryan Arnold send-off pla
    - and measurements:
  - Increase Capacity/Membership Committee
    - Welcome committee – BobbieJo Wolfe and Nina Garza (resident) from Community Greetings – more info in an addenda below
      - "Welcoming the Old-Fashioned Way" by getting homeowner lists for new homeowners and having packages to give them that show off the local businesses. Local businesses sign up and pay ~\$30 to Community Greetings (plus an offer of some kind), and that's what's in the welcome package.
    - Mailings – Jason's update
  - Communications Committee
    - James – update on newsletter
    - Social Media learning session February 29th from 6pm – 8pm – see your emails for registration due by February 22nd
  - Beautification Committee
    - Save the date for 515 Day – boulevard planting and/or cleanup
    - Art week as a part of this?

Next meeting for the board - continue board planning for the year (ran out of time tonight). Discussed dates. February 27th at 6:00pm (food and location TBD). Two board members will not be able to make it.

Courtney will work on getting a way to brain dump in between tonight's meeting and the future meeting.

March 13th - full meeting (open to the community) at 6:30pm at the Polk County Central Senior Center

**Meeting Adjourned 8:41 PM**