

TNT Downtown and Lakefront Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

Zoom - Virtual Meeting - 5:30 pm

Facilitators: Bill Lee, Linda Llewellyn (minutes)

Attendees: Alyssa Dearborn, Chaz-Lit Droguett-Doyle, Jim Emmons, Alana Joe, Bill Lee, Nicole Lesperance-Fugo, Robbie Lewis, Linda Llewellyn, Laurance Luttinger, Rahul Mahapatra, Angana Mahapatra, Derrick Pratt, Conor Rockhill, Eric Saxton, Destiny Winter, Tina Zagya

Call to Order: Bill Lee welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 5:30, and introductions commenced. He reviewed the meeting Ground Rules.

Draft meeting minutes February 16, 2022: Bill Lee motioned to approve the minutes, Rahul Angala seconded, all were in favor.

Issues for District Representatives/Elected Officials/City Departments: Recent violent incidents in Armory Square were mentioned but there was no one present who could provide more information.

Presentation: Syracuse Expeditionary Academy Charter School (SEA) - Chaz-Lit Droguette-Doyle, parent of school age children and teacher at the SCSD Expeditionary Learning Middle School provided a brief presentation about a proposed elementary level Expeditionary Learning (EL) charter school within the SCSD that would be housed in the Red House building downtown. The EL model is strong on character and mastery-based. Students go to school 180 days (as other students in NYS) but the calendar is spread throughout the year with intermittent breaks. They plan to work with Onondaga Historical Association, the MOST, Symphoria, the Central Library, and Redhouse to create different opportunities for children than they currently have in the SCSD. The State Department of Education has accepted the Letter of Intent for the charter but a formal proposal will not be submitted until the new SCSD superintendent has been hired. The goal is to open in the 2024-25 school year. The presenter explained how the SEA will select students, noting that parent commitment is important to student success, and that applications of the children living in the Syracuse district will be weighted more than children living outside the district.

Special Projects: Jim Emmons reviewed his proposal to place Poster Art in the vacant sign boxes near Columbus Circle that was previously submitted to the Downtown sector. He applied for and received funding from another organization for \$900 of the budgeted

amount and requested that the Downtown sector grant his project \$250 in gap funding. The proposal was voted on and passed.

City-wide Director's Update: n/a

City as Canvas: Tina Zagya gave an overview of the multi-year, grant funded project which will provide each TNT sector with an original, civic pride-themed mural created by a local artist. The goal is to complete four murals this year and four next year. We are partnering with the Syracuse Art Commission to help local artists connect with neighborhood youths. She explained that the Lakefront mural location vote is on hold until some concerns about proposed locations (possible flooding in one location and displacement due to I 81 Project on the other) have been resolved. She clarified the process by showing photos of the artist's proposed murals from the Westside. Downtown sector nominators discussed reasons they had submitted their choices (441 E Washington St. (Jazz Central) - submitted by Larry Luttinger, and Lemp Park - submitted by Dr. Eric Saxton). The group reviewed photographs before eligible attendees selected the location via electronic poll. Jazz Central was chosen. The next step is putting out an RFP to local artists to submit designs. Tentative deadline for submissions is June.

Announcements and Questions:

Rahul Mahapatra described significant infrastructure expenses they are experiencing at his downtown building and members of the group offered some ideas and possible solutions.

Connor Rockhill shared that Cafe Kubal has re-opened at the Creekwalk Commons, Parthenon Books has opened, the Progress breakfast was held yesterday with a focus on cultural institutions, the Everson still has some openings for youth art camps this summer, tickets are on sale for the OHA Medal breakfast, the National Grid ExploraDome is open at the MOST, people can still sign up for the annual Earth Day clean-up this Saturday, and progress is being made on the Special Project bike rack design.

Bill Lee noted that the next meeting will be May 18, 2022.

Adjournment: Bill Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Emmons seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Llewellyn