

## CaitolRiver Council Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2021 CRC Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. via Zoom videoconference

Board Members present: Chair Jess Grams, Joe Baierl, Kathy Blair, Tiffany Brace, Merritt Clapp-Smith, Tom Erickson, John Ganey, Bill Huepenbecker, Rich Johnson, Lee Knutson, Judy Miller, Olga Nichols, Kathleen O'Neil, Alan Ostergaard, John Smith, Will Travis.

Other attendees: Marjorie Abrams, Chris Beckstrom, Kady Dadlez, Tom Dimond, Sandra Erickson, Jon Fure, Mariusz Kujawski, John Mannillo, Laurie Siever, Joe Spencer, Jeanne Weigum.

- I. Chair Jess Grams called the meeting to order and made the following statement: We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on Dakota land and the home of the Ojibway people. We also note that this digital platform on which we are all blessed to join together today is one that is not always available to low-income, rural, or indigenous people and communities. We reflect on this as a group to remember our responsibility and privilege to protect these spaces -- both physical and digital -- and, hopefully, someday we can weave them together into more inclusive spaces, and build better processes and standards that will include all of the residents of our district.
- II. Introductions: Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer the question, what would make Downtown more livable? Responses included a more affordable grocery store, a street that is only for pedestrians / bicyclists / transit, public bathrooms, more active businesses, a clothing store, a Target, affordable housing, a 24-hour skyway system, a central park, more activity on the river, more artists living where they can own their unit, more children's play areas, a green East-West corridor, wider sidewalks, fewer large signs, continuing to deal with violence and threats of violence, completion of trail connecting Downtown with Pigs Eye Lake Regional Park, an artist supply store, and a drop-off site for organic waste.
- III. July 20 meeting minutes: The minutes were approved.
- IV. Motion by the CRC Development Review Committee to move forward with a process to revise current signage restrictions, and to recommend support for the requested change to amend City Zoning Code Section 64.420 to allow advertising signage to be installed at professional sports arenas in B4 or B5 zones with seating for more than 1,000 people (current ordinance requires an arena to have seating for more than 10,000).  
  
Executive Director Jon Fure provided background information about the committee's motion, including a summary of feedback received in response to emails that were sent to about 1,300 recipients. All attendees were invited to participate in the discussion. The motion passed. The vote was 8-5 with one board member, Bill Huepenbecker, abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest.
- V. Fundraising committee overview: The agenda item will be discussed at a future meeting.
- VI. CRC Monthly Financial Report: Board members received the monthly financial statements.
- VII. Election of officers: At the previous meeting, the board elected a chair, vice chair, and treasurer, and three officer positions remained vacant. Judy Miller was elected to serve as Secretary, Lee Knutson was elected to serve as Internal Affairs Officer, and Joe Baierl was elected to serve as External Affairs Officer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.