College Hill Partnership

Monday, May 12, 2021 12:00pm

via Zoom

College Hill Partnership Mission Statement College Hill Partnership (CHP) is a non-profit organization that serves as the leader in revitalization and promotion of the College Hill area, an urban neighborhood community. The scope of its mission includes promoting healthy neighborhood businesses and housing enhancement; strengthening collaboration and pride; developing public/private partnerships; and serving as an advocate for addressing area concerns.

X = present

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| X | Chris Martin, Past President | X | Ryan Kreiner, President, Landlord Rep |
| X | Kathryn Sogard, CHP Coordinator |  | Matt Heinen, Resident Representative |
| X | Becky Hawbaker, Secretary, Resident |  | Sam Blatt, At-Large |
| X | Kyle Dehmlow, At Large | X | Hannah Petersen, At-Large |
| X | Brent Dahlstrom, At-Large | x | Samantha Bennett, UNI Student Government |
| X | Bettina Fabos Martin, Landlord |  | Mike Hayes, Ex-Officio City Liaison |
| X | Angela Johnson, Business | X | Karen Howard, Ex-Officio City Liaison |
| X | Barb Schilf, Business | X | Andrew Morse, Ex-Officio UNI |
|  | Cary Darrah Ex-Officio, Cedar Valley Alliance | x | Doug Johnson, Ex-Officio CHAF |
| X | Vaughn Griffith Ex-Officio Master Gardner/Hill Beautification | x | Crystal Ford, Ex-Officio, Community Main Street |

Guests:

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00.
2. April Minutes: **Griffin/Fuchtman moved to approve the February minutes. The motion was approved**.
3. New Business:
4. Resolution: Appointing Sam Blatt to Open At-Large Seat

As there was one At-Large seat open following our annual meeting and board elections, the board is asked to appoint someone in this seat according to our bylaws. Sogard summarized Blatt’s background and interest in the position [Kathryn, add more here?]. **Blatt was approved unanimously.**

B. Resolution: Election of Executive Positions

1. President:

Ryan Kreiner has served as our Vice President in 2020-2021 with the understanding that he would become President this year. He remains interested and committed. **Kreiner was approved unanimously.**

2. Vice President:

There were no volunteers for this position at this meeting. All members were encouraged to consider serving and to contact Sogard with questions about the responsibilities. We will return to this item in June.

3. Secretary:

Becky Hawbaker volunteered to continue in her role as Secretary. **Hawbaker was approved unanimously**.

4. Treasurer:

There were no volunteers for this position at this meeting. All members were encouraged to consider serving and to contact Sogard with questions about the responsibilities. We will return to this item in June.

C. Resolution: Approving Contract Economic Development Grant (See

Packet).

**The Economic Development Grant Contract was approved unanimously.**

D. Resolution: Approving Contract Community Betterment Grant (See Packet).

**The Community Betterment Grant Contract Sogard had prepared was approved unanimously.**

E. Resolution: Approving Time and Date for Regular Board Meeting.

After discussion, it was agreed that we would continue meeting on the second Monday of the month at noon.

F. Other Business: No further new business

1. Updated Business:
2. Discussion: Paid Parking Implementation

During COVID, the City put parking fees and fines on hold for College Hill and Main Street, a move CHP has supported. The City is discussing extending that moratorium to August and has heard concerns from Community Main Street about doing so. Ford reported that in town hall meetings, the majority of those in attendance supported returning to 4-hr paid parking downtown and is taking that recommendation to the City Council on June 7th. There was extended discussion about whether continuing or ending the parking moratorium is best for College Hill. The College Hill parking study found that most of the parking congestion on the Hill is from students seeking free parking and that having paid parking with a new kiosk and parking app and passes for certain lots would maintain sufficient parking for Hill business customers. On the other hand, UNI’s spring semester has ended and the summer student population is far lower than the normal academic year. Concerns were raised about enforcing parking in one zone and not another, how parking fees raised in a zone come back to support that zone or hurt it if not collected, and whether it is a problem to ‘flipflop’ on parking enforcement.

**Geary/Hawbaker moved to draft a letter to the city raising the points made about the unique parking context on the Hill and concerns and requesting that on the Hill parking enforcement and fees should be in place only when UNI is in session in the fall and spring semesters. The motion passed.**

1. Discussion: Next steps Imagine College Hill! Visioning Process

Sogard thanked CHP members Martin, Morse, Deibler, Hawbaker, and Dehmlow for attending the City Council Meeting and speaking in favor of adopting the Imagine College Hill Plan. The Council voted narrowly 4-3 to support it, and it is likely that next steps to implement the plan will prove to be equally controversial. City staff will study the recommendations and will begin drafting possible changes to code that will support the plan. Dahlstrom raised a new concern about the proliferation of vape shops on the Hill and advocated for a moratorium on these and possibly other types of ‘sin businesses.’ If CHP wants to move in that direction, Howard recommended contacting the city for further direction. Hawbaker asked whether it is worse to have another vape shop or a vacant store front.

1. Reports from Committees:
   1. Light Up College Hill: Martin reported that he and Sogard are following up on concerns raised by the city about insurance and having structural engineers evaluate connection points for the light strands.
   2. Seerley Park Committee: Martin reported that the committee is working on coming to consensus on a list of amenities to include in a plan to ask the city to draw up and estimate costs for. CHP conducted an online survey in 2016 and added to the responses more recently, totaling 156 responses. Top current amenities were using the playground, using the shelter. Top new amenities were new shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, splashpad. Top shelter considerations were running water and mixed use space. Top consideration for location of shelter is away from steep hill and near playground. Hawbaker reported that the Little Free Library continues to be very busy, with books restocked 2-3 times per week.
   3. Communictaions Committee: no report
2. Reports from Executive Officers
   1. President: No additional Report
   2. Treasurer: Johnson shared the financial report. There were no questions.
3. Reports from UNI:
   1. UNI Liaison: Morse had to leave the meeting before his report but had shared that [UNI Homecoming](https://homecoming.uni.edu/) is coming up April 5th-10th.
4. Reports from Staff and Ex-Officio Liaisons
   1. Executive Director: See written report
   2. City Liaisons: Howard had no additional report
   3. Beautification: Griffin is working on a budget request for ongoing beautification on the Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Hawbaker

Next meeting: Monday, June 14th