



Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, August 19th, **Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
Lori, John, Matt, Mark, Nichole, KJ, Thomas, Jason, Jessica, Eddie, Carl

### **6:30 Board Business – Call to Order @ 6:35**

Approval of August Agenda and July Minutes  
Motion: Jason Seconded: Mark  
Passes

Financials – Mark

Checking: \$237.84  
Saving: \$15,591.89

Committee Updates:

- Ambassador Committee update – Tom
  - The focus of Tom’s work on the Ambassador/Membership on been on elevating the website as completing it will allow the committee to have a legitimate sign up portal.
- Marketing update—Nichole
  - Drake Pick Me Up Challenge – still have 4 gift cards to give away.
    - If you have notice any signs, pick them up
  - September Newsletter – September 1<sup>st</sup> was the goal,
    - Working List of Stories – Shared with Lori and will share with the rest of the board.
- Website Update – Jason
  - The focused committee on the website has been meeting weekly to work through website project. The site is nearly completed, we are just awaiting the payment form to be completed so that we can begin to accept payments on the website for membership and store items.

Proposed New North and South Highway on MLK – Neighborhood position?

Brief discussion was had revolving around the lack of information provided the organization and it prevents some ability to make an informed decision or statement on the project.

### **7:00 Neighborhood Updates**

Introductions

NBSD Updates - Skipped

- Mark McKinney
- Eric Barker

NDC Project Update – Abbey Gilroy

As NDC continues it’s work in the neighborhood, they came to share an exciting development in their project on the former Johnson & Son’s Property. They had originally

planned on creating a 3,600 sq ft retail and restaurant location. As they begin the development work, Casey's General Stores approached them with interest in taking over the property to develop a neighborhood scale market. The neighborhood market would be a new step for Casey's as it would be the first store of it's kind in the company – a convenience store without gas pumps. The project would include moving the building to the front of the lot space and bring the parking lot entries away from the intersection. Once it opens, the store would have the full kitchen offerings of any other Casey's store -including grocery and convenience offerings. There are still a few hurdles to jump through with the zoning board before the project's construction starts – but once it begins, the build will take around 12 weeks. They anticipated opening would be in the Spring or Summer 2021.

Discussion around the project revolved around some thoughts on what signage would look like and some concerns around the store's food offerings and additional questions around the parking lot and landscaping.

#### Varsity Cinema Update – Ben Godar

The Des Moines Film Society came to present to their plans to renovate and expand their programming at the old Varsity Theatre – and title it Varsity Cinema. The organization was created in 2015 and has been looking for a home ever since it began. As the Mahon family closed the theatre, the Film Society saw an opportunity to continue the 80 year legacy of film in the Drake neighborhood.

The project will be totally building rehabilitation including a restored façade, modernized lobby, updated audio/visual and accessibility improvements. The second floor will include a 2<sup>nd</sup> screen microcinema for local filmmakers and classes. The building will be able to host 275-300 people. To get involved in the project and receive updates, you can follow them on social media at TheVarsityDSM or sign up for their newsletter on [www.desmoinesfilm.org](http://www.desmoinesfilm.org).

#### Drake Report Update – Ryan/John

No Drake Neighborhood Events Pass this year, but this might be revisited in the spring. Drake Blue Oval Showcase, which is primarily a media event, will be hosted by the University on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August.

Students have moved in over the last 4 days and the following preventative measures have been taken:

- Residential Students were tested before arriving on campus

- Masks required on campus – including visitors

- Hybrid model of online classes/social distanced classes

In early September, the new entrance to campus should be completed in front of Old Main. This includes a statue of Griff, honoring the live mascot program at Drake.

Meeting Adjourned \_\_\_\_\_ 8:51