



Meeting Action Minutes

Downtown Vision Ad-Hoc Committee

December 3, 2014

Visit Mesa Conference Room

120 N. Center Street

4:00 p.m.

Jo Wilson, Chair

Debby Elliott, Member

Marco Meraz, Member

Lorenzo Perez, Member

Steve Chucri, Member

Charles Huellmantel, Member

Rich Marchant, Member

1. Chair's call to order -- **Delayed to approximately 4:25 p.m., until quorum arrived. Members present: Jo Wilson, Debby Elliott, Lorenzo Perez, Steve Chucri.**
2. Review and approve minutes from the October 28, 2014 Committee meeting—**Approved with no comment**
3. Hear a presentation by and discuss feedback from Historic Preservation Board—**A report was provided by Chair Jim Taylor and Vice Chair Wendy Mack-Allred of the Historic Preservation Board to outline what the Board does, why they do it and to describe some of their upcoming priorities in downtown, including Historic Preservation District in downtown, location to collect misplaced/unused historic neon signs, rehabilitation of the former US Post Office, and preservation of a home built in Mesa to duplicate Loren Green's home. When asked what words they would use to describe their vision for downtown: discussion relative to finding unique and interesting ways to mix old and new. No committee action occurred, other than hearing the report and requesting clarification on a few items.**
4. Hear a presentation by and discuss feedback from Downtown Mesa Association—**DMA Executive Director David Short provided an overview of the DMA's primary activities and also provided maps relative to key challenges in downtown, including area demographics/market, number of existing restaurants, businesses open after 8 p.m., vacant properties. Committee more closely reviewed some of the data and asked Mr. Short what word he'd use for his vision of downtown. He said "activated." Committee took no specific action relative to this item.**

5. Hear a presentation by and discuss feedback from Sustainable Communities Collaborative- **Shannon Scutari, Executive Director of the SCC, provided an overview of the SCC, projects that have been completed by the organization or partner agencies, and suggested vision and next steps for Downtown Mesa, including—emphasis on transit-oriented development, referring to former implementation plans, and ensuring collaboration amongst partner agencies. Board Member Perez was asked during the presentation to share his story relative to “Newton Place,” a historic building (former Beefeaters) rehab at 3rd Ave. and Camelback in Phoenix. When asked what word she’d use for her vision of downtown, Ms. Scutari said “inclusion.” No specific action was taken by the committee.**
6. Confirm next meeting dates: December 9 and 16, 4 p.m., Visit Mesa Conf. Room— **Board discussed that given difficulty reaching quorum today, we might consider moving meeting to 3 p.m. All members in attendance agreed to 3 p.m. start on both the 9th and the 16th. Staff was directed to contact other members to inform them of this time change.**
7. Review and provide direction on Chamber of Commerce business survey questions. **Chairperson Jo Wilson reviewed the list of questions proposed to be used by the Chamber of Commerce as they meet with/survey Downtown businesses. The list was approved by Committee with one addition: “How important is parking to your business, both short- and long-term parking?”**
8. Discuss and provide direction on the primary agenda items next meeting:
 - a. Presentation and discussion by Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), Retail-Arts-Innovation-Livability (RAILmesa), Mesa Arts and Culture Department. **Accepted by Committee.**
9. Items from citizens present -- **None**
10. Adjourn meeting **(At approximately 5:50 p.m.)**

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