

Annapolis Partnership

Design Committee

“The Design Committee addresses the physical appearances of Downtown Annapolis and advocates for policy changes to make it easier to grow downtown.”

Present: Ann Widener, Doug Smith, Deb Schwab, Cindy Gross, Lisa Craig,
Lisa Thompson

The meeting notes of March 3rd were approved.

Update on Wayfinding: Thompson advised the committee on the status of the pedestrian wayfinding program for downtown Annapolis. Thompson shared with the Committee examples of the kiosk, trail blazer and map designs. The signs are in production and have a target date for installation Fall of 2016. The detailed plan is included on the city's website for review. The signage includes a base map that has been shared with the Partnership and can be used for many mapping initiatives across the Main Street program. Lisa Craig noted that signage for the Arts and Entertainment District should be reviewed since the initial planning probably didn't include this area.

Detailed Map of Downtown: As part of the Wayfinding plan, Merje has designed a base map that will be included on many of the new wayfinding signs. Sally Nash, P&Z, has shared a blank base map with the Partnership so that we can use this map in our merchant promotions and marketing initiatives. The consistency will build upon the branding of downtown and reinforce the wayfinding system.

Facade Program and Interior Design Grants: As part of the Community Legacy Program through the Department of Housing and Community Development, Main Street programs can apply for Facade Improvement Grants as well as Interior Improvement Grants. Lisa Craig recommended that consideration be given to projects that meet or exceed the \$5,000 threshold for property tax credits. AP will check with Teresa Wellman about the application process and grant dates. The Committee also agreed to put together a survey asking property owners and tenants about what they need to invest in the district or what incentives a new property owner or tenant would consider as part of a relocation to the Main Street program area.

Annapolis in Bloom: Thompson updated the Committee on the fundraising initiative for Annapolis in Bloom. Ann Widener would like to see the Chippendale planters that lined Maryland Avenue during the Holidays be a permanent fixture. Having large planters throughout the district year-round would add visual interest to the commercial corridors. Widener also requested if Homestead could water the other planters on Maryland Avenue as well.

Main Street Pocket Park: Deb Schwab agreed to work on a plan to freshen up with the Pocket Park if the construction on 122 Main Street was not going to begin soon. Lisa Craig also

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recommended that AP check on the insurance rider for the property following the merger to ensure proper coverage of the public space this summer.

Additional Business:

The Design Committee would like to partner with Historic Annapolis regarding a historic tax credit workshop they are planning for November.