Placemaking Committee

5/21/2025

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Lori, Patti, Louise, Evan, Zubin, Charles, Katherine

Evan moved to approve Draft Minutes of 3/19/25 Placemaking Committee Meeting, Louise seconded, Vote passed unanimously.

Katherine is creating a map of planter urns for the district so that we can redistribute some of them and sort the black Cultivate urns in as the primary urns on Main Street, to be paid for by the TIF. Louise submitted an estimate to plant the planters for summer. Katherine is looking into whether MDM can afford to plant them. Katherine looked into trying to get some art installed, but there were no takers. Katherine asked about planting yard signs in the empty planters too, but there was no enthusiasm for that.

New light pole banners have been installed and invoices have been sent.

Regarding Main Street Festoon Lighting, a meeting happened on May 15th with a local structural engineer. Paul Z is following up with engingeering docs from the Main Street project, Illuminight is supplying the design, heights, weights etc to the engineer, and a plan will be submitted to the city when all that comes together. The engineer feels strongly that the project needs a lead engineer/project manager.

Trees are supposed to be planted on Main Street in May as the last part of the Main Street Improvement Project.

Block by block meetings are being held with businesses to show how the city will help to accommodate their parking needs.

Katherine reported that the Under Bridge lighting project that the committee members took part in will not have updates until design pitches come in in October.

The other Evanston Thrives project is the gateway signage project, which is headed by the City. Katherine will check in with Katie Boden to see what the status is on that.

Katherine has been back in touch with Parvin Clauss to re-engage, and will site visit these signs at the same time as the Gateway signage.

Katherine reminded the committee about upcoming Block Parties:

- June 6 – Train Station Alley featuring She's Crafty
- July 18 – 500 Block of Main Street featuring The Paul Maslin Band
- August 22 – 500 Block of Dempster St featuring Chicken Bone

Katherine gave some updates on the upcoming Main Street Fair -- Website is up, Mainstage Music Lineup announced, over 70 vendors signed up so far, almost $30,000 in sponsorships committed.

Louise brought up the sidewalk cafe and streatery issues. Wine Goddess has been granted an exception to have her café on the sidewalk. Other restaurateurs have also had issues with these new regs. Louise would like to have something natural on the sidewalk.

Adjourn