

PLANNING MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS

Minutes

4/24/07

Next Meeting Thursday April 26th 12noon @ City Annex

Present:

Chairman Margaret Lynch
Sean Crabtree
Beth Rhoton
Josh Tennpenny
Fernando & Kathy Santisteban
David Cowan
Jimmy Crownover

Absent:

Woody Deutch
Joshua Hammer
Bryan Bean

Chairman Margaret Lynch called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Those present were briefed on the hierarchy of the committee system and the fact that from time to time this committee will be asked for input on items by the Oversight Committee.

As relayed, the first of two such items was an official stance on how a judicial center moving off the square would affect downtown business.

All agreed that any decision moving the judicial center away from the square would be excessive and costly for taxpayers, a major detriment to downtown business and a massive inconvenience for those whose jobs would move off the square. It was unanimously agreed to fully recommend that the committee issue an official statement condemning any decision that would move the judicial center away from the square.

As a second item, this committee was asked to speak to the Chamber of Commerce to see if they would be willing to recruit specifically for the Downtown area. Chairman Lynch relayed that she had spoken specifically with the Chamber, and while they are more than happy to support any and all business in Franklin County, they cannot recruit for one specific area over another.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the Winchester Downtown Merchants Assoc form a Not-For-Profit organization specifically for the recruitment of downtown business. Sean Crabtree agreed to look into requirements for that formation and report back at next meeting.

In other business it was agreed to recommend that an addendum be added to the by-laws stating that meeting times for this committee be posted on the website at least two days before the next meeting.

After more discussion it was unanimously agreed to call a specially requested meeting of the Winchester Downtown Merchants Assoc for Thursday April 26th and to make the above recommendations to the committee. Sean Crabtree was asked to take Fernando Santisteban's proxy with regard to the above items as he will not be able to attend Thursday's meeting.

Chairman Lynch called the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.