

## **Main Street Business Association**

### **July Meeting**

**7/28/2015**

**Present:** Tucker Curtain, Roseann Scibilia, Barbara Johnson Lee, Linda Garwol, Darren Cotton, Mickey Vertino, Daniel Domino, Mary Kinney, Larry Kinney, Rasheed Wyatt, Ibrahim Cisse

### **Introductions & Preliminary Business**

- Minutes will be taken and posted as a Google Doc for members to edit
- Still looking for a treasury report from Jonathan at Talking Leaves
- Attorney to take a look at bylaws

### **Grants & Funding available for business/property owners**

- Better Buffalo Fund is part of the Buffalo Billion and is making up to \$30 million dollars available for projects that encourage density and growth along transportation corridors (NFTA metro & major bus routes) and revitalize neighborhood commercial districts.  
<http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/BetterBuffaloFund.html>
- Bailey Avenue & Main Street in University Heights are both eligible target areas for the funding
- Two major tracks for funding: Transit Oriented Development & Buffalo Main Streets Initiative
  - Transit Oriented Development
    - Transit Oriented Development (TOD) emphasizes growth in areas that are walkable and served by alternative transportation such as light rail and high frequency bus service.
    - Funding is available for projects which promote dense development (housing, employment, and retail) within ¼ mile walking distance of transit stops
    - Funds up to \$2 million will be administered in two forms: loans and grants. ESD intends to award the most assistance in the form of loans, so loan applicants will receive priority
  - Buffalo Main Streets Initiative
    - The Buffalo Main Streets Initiative aims to assist in the revitalization of historic downtowns and mixed-use neighborhood commercial districts through targeted commercial and residential improvements such as façade renovations; interior commercial and residential building upgrades; targeted, strategic demolition as part of a broader redevelopment strategy approved and supported locally; and streetscape enhancements.
- **Please see attached handout for additional details on each program**

### **Main Street Streetscape & Configuration**

- Email from Doris Corley about Main Street streetscape
  - General sentiment is that we should return Main Street to how it used to be
  - Get rid of median
  - One lane in either direction with center turning lane
  - Bike lanes and on street parking

- Consensus of the group is to articulate a letter from Main Street Business Association in favor of overhauling the street's design
- Slow down the traffic and make it more pedestrian-friendly
- Send a letter out to consider a planning study
- Look at statistics on traffic accidents since the medians were installed
- Rasheed talked to Mike Finn from the city and he was in agreement about the future of Main Street
- The more letters we can get from community members and organizations the more powerful our argument will be

### **Art Fest 2015**

- 17 vendors, 8 active businesses, 9 live performances
- Looking to bring out as much of the community as possible
- Have festivals on Bailey Avenue and Main Street that are complementary to one another
- Community organizations will receive a free booth
- New sculpture garden will be open for the festival
- Activities at local businesses will incentivize people to buy local
- Use email list to encourage businesses to participate in the festival and do something outside their business
- Post the event page for the festival
- Encourage artists to do live art during the festival as opposed to just exhibiting their work

### **Update on garbage cans**

- Met with and currently exploring ideas for garbage cans with Fly and Anvil Iron Works
- Custom spin-bins – decorative elements
- Campaigns on the garbage cans to get people not to litter and participate in cleanups?
- How do garbage workers empty them?
  - Empty them normally
  - Can have a removable insert
- Meet with city engineers/mayor's office to see if spin-bins are even acceptable
- Larry to talk to partners about the garbage can design
- Public education to keep University District clean
- By next meeting there will be thumbnail sketches to share
- Talk to the city about what is acceptable and what might be able to be paid for through the capital budget
- Where will the garbage cans be places?
  - Some blocks have them that don't need them and vice versa

### **Next Meeting**

September 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 at the Steer

Find the flyer and additional information at: <http://ourheights.org/mainstreetbiz/>

