

University Heights Business Association // 10/24/17

Present: Annmarie Ranger, Darren Cotton, Linda Garwol, Tess Morrissey, Madisen Hughes, Tuona Batchelor, Bob Reger, Gary Codick, Tucker Curtain, David Mack, Larry Gottesman, Jim Rozanski, Paul Neubecker

Cash Mobs

- Next one is Thursday, 10/26 from 5p-8p at Parkside Candy
 - Social media promotion solely
- Selected next two businesses: Richies for November and the Steer for December
 - Event in December will be a fundraiser/block club meet and greet with District Attorney John Flynn
 - December event will be on 12/12/17 at the Steer, in lieu of UHC monthly meeting.
 - Proceeds from event will benefit the business association and perhaps VOICE Buffalo.

Holidays on Main Street

- Group came to consensus that lights will be put up the weekend following Thanksgiving.
 - Will continue to ask the City about availability of electricity to allow for decorations and lights.
 - This has been a persistent problem since 2015.
- Santa at Parkside: Saturday 12/9 picked as the date. Will have candy, hot chocolate, and Santa with a photo setting for families to take pictures.
 - Idea: Get Queen City Imaging involved to print Christmas cards for families that they can purchase. Proceeds will benefit business association for lighting and decorations for the 2018 holiday season.

Smart Growth Grant

- Grant available to be used for an assessment along Main Street and Bailey Ave business corridors. ~\$15,000 grant, we will need to come up with \$7,000-\$8,000 as matching funds. Will not need these funds until Spring 2018.
 - Elmwood Avenue utilized this grant 20 years ago to create nonprofit Forever Elmwood which focused solely on business corridor development.
 - Fillmore Avenue more recently used this grant, which also produced a nonprofit organization, Fillmore Forward, to spur business development.
- General positive consensus from group regarding the grant, but some criticisms made that we should keep this in-house and focus on our problems (safety, beautification) using our capacity as the UHBA.
 - Point made that next AmeriCorps VISTA member will be focusing primarily on business and economic development.
- The grant necessitates having a committee of roughly 7-8 community residents and business owners to help with administration and oversight.
- Matching grant?

- Mickey suggested approaching St. Joes for money, as they have funds dedicated to quality of life improvements.
- We've had good luck with banks: M&T, Keybank, Bank of America.

Old/New Business

- 3144 Main Street- new bar that is trying to open up in the old Surrender space.
 - Issue with permits and licensing process, point is made that the bar should not be opening based on neighborhood concerns and legal issues with aforementioned permits and licenses.
 - The bar does not have a kitchen and would be operating essentially as an 18+ club.
- Tucker: attorney on retainer to represent class of business owners and residents against the opening on this business, anyone who cares to join in the proceedings are more than welcome.