

DMI Executive Directors Report – July 2020

General:

- DMI is assisting in creating both the short and long-term economic recovery and inclusiveness plans for downtown Madison along with our partners at the BID and the City.
- DMI will help lead and facilitate a weekly group of diverse stakeholders to assist in the short-term recovery and re-imaging of downtown. The group will focus on specific projects, advocacy and promotion of downtown.
- We are actively advocating for the passage of the City's Downtown Recovery Program and Downtown Equity Program.
- DMI assisted the BID in providing nearly 50 letters of support to downtown businesses for the WEDC small business grant.
- DMI facilitated, along with the BID, several conversations between downtown stakeholders and City officials including with Mayor Rhodes-Conway, MPD Chief Vic Wahl and MPD Captain Kelly Donahue.
- DMI and the BID remain on the City's (and Chambers) COVID business resource and economic development bi-weekly calls. The relationship with the Chamber and Destination Madison continues to grow even stronger with each organization taking the lead on certain priorities all while working with each other (on COVID and non-COVID issues).
- DMI continues to host small group discussions with industry specific leaders including in non-profit management and real estate/construction. We are partnering with Smart Growth on the later.
- DMI is currently working on moving our two largest events, the Annual Dinner and the State of the Downtown, to virtual platforms. The team's creativity is inspiring.

Inclusiveness:

- The Committee met with the Urban Community Arts Network (UCAN) at their June meeting to discuss how to bring more urban art to downtown.
- DMI hosts, and continues to facilitate, the meetings of the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR). In June the group hosted an open forum.
- DMI worked with Access to Independence, the City and the Beyond Compliance Task Force to produce a two-page guide to ADA regulations under the Streatery Program.
- DMI hosted and facilitated an event with OPEN and Orgullo to discuss their work together. The meeting also included breakouts to help create more community.

Quality of Life:

- DMI closely watched the room tax commission's distribution of funds. Several of DMI's largest partners and downtown institutions are recipients, including Destination Madison, the Overture and the Monona Terrace. The use of the room tax, and its several decreased funds, is very important to the short and long-term prospects of downtowns economy.
- The Committee heard a presentation from Porchlight on the future for the men's shelter. Since COVID, the shelter moved to Warner Park where they have more room and can provide more

services. The Men's Shelter Group continues to meet and is assisting the City as they understand the needs for the new shelter.

Transportation:

- The Committee met with WISDOT to discuss the REAL ID implementation. We also heard updates on the new Wilson Street garage, Wilson Street, B-Cycle and Metro.
- The Committee also met with Zerology and Mobile 22 to discuss their innovative transportation company.
- DMI also participated in the Wilson Street planning meeting. The plan is moving forward nicely and should pass the City Council soon. The street will include dedicated and protected bike lanes in each direction, room for Metro and room for delivery/drop off locations. Work will start on the section between Broom and Henry next year.

Government Relations:

- The Committee held a great conversation with Alder Rummel in June. The discussion touched on several subjects including development, MPD, downtown economy and many other topics.
- The Committee also met with Alder Verveer in July. The Committee discussed the downtown recovery program, Streatery, downtown economic recovery, development and the room tax commission, amongst many other subjects.
- Alder Max Prestigiacomo will be meeting with the Committee in August.

Economic Development:

- The Committee met with the leadership team at the Wisconsin Policy Forum to discuss their reports on school funding and municipal/county/state budgets impacts from COVID-19.
- The Committee also heard a presentation from Jeremiah Robinson on his statistical analysis of COVID-19.
- The Committee is also monitoring the bird glass resolution working its way through the City right now. Smart Growth has taken the lead in asking more specific questions about the resolution and seeing if more financial analysis can take place before passage.

Membership Development:

- The Committee met in June and discussed how DMI can better communicate with our membership, particularly around the advocacy work. One idea is to use the Civic Agenda as the platform, then post frequent updates on our website and creating videos about the specific work being conducted.

For questions and more information contact:

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