



DMI Director's Report – March 2023

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community:

- DMI, along with our partners from the Wisconsin Policy Forum and the Hoan Group, hosted a mayoral debate between Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Gloria Reyes at the Madison Central Library. The debate focused on both downtown and larger city issues. The debate was recorded by both Madison City Channel and WisconsinEye – <https://wiseye.org/2023/02/27/wisconsin-policy-forum-mayor-of-madison/>.
- DMI continues to host our new monthly Advocacy Update. This month we welcomed Andrew Goldberg, who works on U.S. Government Affairs for the International Downtown Association - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFizYrITQRM&t=129s>.
- DMI rescheduled both of the February New Faces, New Places and What's Up Downtown events due to inclement weather. Both events are rescheduled for March.

DMI Media Mentions:

- February 27 – WKOW - [Madison Mayoral Candidates Debate City Budget](#)
- February 27 – WISC - [Rhodes-Conway, Reyes Meet in First Debate Since Primary](#)
- February 28 - Wisconsin State Journal - [Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Gloria Reyes Draw Campaign Contrasts](#)
- March 2 - Wisconsin State Journal - [State Looking to sell 3 Large Office Buildings in Downtown Madison](#)
- March 2 – Wisconsin Public Radio - [Capital Budget Would Offload 4 State Office Buildings](#)
- March 6 – Wisconsin Public Radio - [Satya Rhodes-Conway, Gloria Reyes Face Off in Race for Madison Mayor](#)

DMI Presentations:

- Jason participated in the Andy North Trivia Night as a guest trivia expert.
- Jason and Heather presented a Downtown Madison update to Fredrikson & Byron law firm.
- Jason presented a Downtown Madison update to EUA.

Economic Development:

- The Economic Development Committee meet in February and discussed several current issues including the City's benchmarking ordinance and a new resolution on downtown building heights. The Committee created a task force on building heights, and they recommended meeting with Heather Stouder, City of Madison Planning Division Director and asking several questions at the City's Plan Commission.

Challenge Committee:

- The Challenge Committee did not meet this month.

Membership Development:

- The Membership Development Committee met in February at CG Schmidt to discuss new members and member retention.
- DMI is excited to welcome several new members this month:

ARTS for ALL Wisconsin (formerly VSA Wisconsin)	Christina Martin-Wright	www.artsforallwi.org
Clean Wisconsin Inc	Ryan Kelly	www.cleanwisconsin.org
Clouds North Films	Bob Trondson	www.cloudsnorth.com
Foundation for Dane County Parks	Aaron Mullins	https://www.foundationfordanecountyparks.org/
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	Justin Chasco	https://www.fredlaw.com/
Investors Associated	Travis Bouzek	https://investorsassociated.com/
Mission Forward, LLC	Jeff Burkhart	www.missionfwd.org
Oscar Rennebohm Foundation	Jennifer Jeffress	www.rennebohmfoundation.org
Veterans Community Action Network of South-Central Wisconsin	Will Atkinson	www.thevetscanscw.org

Transportation:

- The Transportation Committee did not meet between this report and the last.

Quality of Life:

- DMI and Catholic Charities hosted our first joint meeting of our respective committee on homelessness. At the meeting we heard updates from both public and private partners working with people experiencing homelessness. The new committee will meet quarterly moving forward.
- The Quality of Life Committee met in February and hosted a presentation with State Representative Francesca Hong about Governor Evers budget proposal and how it will affect small businesses downtown.
- DMI participated in a meet and greet with the new leadership of the Madison Police Department's Central Precinct.
- Peggy Gunderson and Nick Newlin from the BID Board hosted a discussion on downtown marketing with several organizations. The group is working on how we can market the downtown together.

Inclusiveness:

- After hosting an open discussion at their last meeting, the leadership of the Inclusiveness Committee met to discuss the future of the committee, it's focus and how often it will meet.
- The Beyond Compliance Committee continues their work with the City on how to assist Streatery users with their outdoor spaces.

Government Relations:

- DMI is conducting endorsement interviews for all 20 Common Council races and the Mayoral contest.
- To date, 35 out of 36 candidates eligible are seeking DMI's endorsement.

For questions and more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or jilstrup@downtownmadison.org.