



DMI Director's Report – June 2024

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community:

- DMI released a new membership video. Thank you to our friend Bob Trondson and Clouds North Films for the fantastic piece on DMI.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK_260ryNKg&t=7s
- DMI hosted a What's Up Downtown Breakfast featuring Porchlight Executive Director Karla Thennes.
- DMI recorded a podcast about Make Music Madison with Managing Director Meri Rose Ekberg.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzQTW48kjBU>
- The May DMI Advocacy Update featured a discussion with Smart Growth Greater Madison Executive Director Bill Connors.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1gU3nGZOZg&t=40s>
- Jason participated as judge for the Destination Madison Awards, and as Co-Chair for the Vel Phillips Statute Commission.
- Jason attended the Rotary International Convention in Singapore on behalf of the Rotary Club of Madison as their President-Elect.

DMI Media Mentions:

- May 15 – Wisconsin State Journal - [Madison's Building Permit Process Can Take Over a Year. Some Suburbs Take Longer](#)
- May 29 – WisBusiness - [Madison Reading Project Ready to Wear](#)
- June 6 – The Daily Cardinal - [Small Business in Madison Thrive on the Close-Knit Community Despite Government Setbacks](#)

Presentations:

- Jason gave a DMI and Downtown Madison presentation to the associates at Foley's Madison office.

Economic Development:

- The Economic Development Committee heard a presentation and held a discussion on the City of Madison and DMI's Affordable Student Housing Working Group. The Committee gave several additional recommendations to the Working Group.
- DMI assisted the Capitol East Business Association (CEBA) with their organizational kickoff event.
- The Affordable Student Housing Working Group hosted their sixth meeting and continued refining their recommendations to the City of Madison, UW, and the private sector.

Membership Development:

- DMI welcomed several new members to our organization:

Altus, Inc.	http://altusinc.co/
Clean Wisconsin	www.cleanwisconsin.org
Jazz at Five, Inc.	www.jazzatfive.org
Jessica Eley	www.madisonexecutivecoaching.com
MOTUS FINANCIAL, INC	https://motuscc.com
Snyder & Associates, Inc.	www.snyder-associates.com
The Cashew Commonwealth LLC	www.cashewcommonwealth.com

Transportation:

- The Transportation Committee will meet to hear an update on the Madison Bicycle Center and discuss DMI potentially advocating for a specific passenger rail station site.

Quality of Life:

- DMI assisted the Isthmus Safety Initiative in hosting Safe Growth for a training on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). The training included MPD, the City’s Planning, Traffic, and Parking divisions and several downtown business and residential leaders.

Inclusiveness:

- The Beyond Compliance Task Force completed their Accessible Outdoor Dining training videos. The videos will launch over the next few weeks.
- The next I.D.E.A. series is hosting their second meeting with the team from the Special Olympics Wisconsin Unified Leadership.

Government Relations:

- The Government Relations Committee heard a presentation from Kathy Kuntz, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change Director.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxXoD534cCw&t=2s>

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