

## Downtown Merchants Association - General Membership Meeting

### August 2012 Meeting Agenda & Meeting Minutes

The Depot Express, August 24, 2012 at 8 AM

- Welcome - Joe Korkowski was running the meeting, Jeff is on vacation. Thank you Joe!

#### Introduction of Members and Guests - Mike Weber & Tim Schoenhoven

Recap - 2014 complete streets reconstruction from 8th to 3rd Ave, 2013 side streets (mostly on West side), East side parking lots.

The bid for the East side parking lots was opened in July, they received only 1 bid which was 20% higher than expected. They are recommending to reject the bid at the upcoming council meeting and would like to combine it with the side street project in 2013. The side street bid will open this winter and construction is set to begin next summer with the East side parking lots to start after Labor day 2013.

- ALP will do all of their work for the parking lots this fall or next spring, this will take approx. 3 weeks.

- MN Dot is almost done with the re-surfacing project; Fillmore street between 7th & 8th opened up again yesterday.

The complete streets project will start between 3rd & 4th Ave (where the concrete ends), we will have the same number of parking spaces and the West side sidewalk will be wider.

The project is set to start in May 2014 with Phase I - construction will go N to S from 3rd to 6th Ave and it will take about 45 days, Phase II - 6th Ave intersection will take about 10 - 14 days, Phase III - from 6th to 9th Ave will take another 45 days.

- There will be no assessments to individual business for the downtown projects, except the parking lots.

- MN Dot drives the design of the sidewalks, the width of the road, etc.

- The process for the landscaping is open to discussion. A landscaping contractor will be hired by Oct. 2012. Most of the design will be finalized this winter.

- If you want to be involved in the landscaping process send an email to Jeff [jeff@databae.com](mailto:jeff@databae.com) or Joe [jkork@kxra.com](mailto:jkork@kxra.com).

Interested parties will be invited to upcoming meetings. All building owners will also get notices.

- The park department will be in charge of maintaining downtown.

If you have any questions please send an email to [mweber@rea-alp.com](mailto:mweber@rea-alp.com).

Mike and Tim would like to come back at a future time to talk about 2015 & 2016 projects.

- Treasurer's Report - Christie is on vacation and forwarded her report to Joe via email. General fund is at \$19,439, Flower basket fund is at \$1,398.
- Secretary's Report - Facebook promotion: <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownAlexandria> win 1 of 2 - \$25 DMA Gift Certificates if you like our page! Winners will be announced in the September Public Newsletter and on FB. The FB page has grown from 99 to 168 likes so far. The next newsletter will be send on Sept. 5th.
- Fall Festival - Read a copy of the Public Sidewalk Activity Permit so everyone is aware of the rules.  
The Girls Night Out event will be held at The Depot Express. Any updates?  
The public sidewalk Activity permit states: All merchants must leave a 4 foot walk space on sidewalk. No merchants shall be over the curb line in parking lane.  
Megan informed us that only 35 businesses signed up so far, if you're interested in participating please let her know by this afternoon. Next Monday or Tuesday the final bag stuffers will be handed out.
- Counterfit Money - At Angelina's, the DATA charitable gambling booth has gotten counterfeit \$10.00 bills.

#### Announcements - What's happening in your business!

- Kathleen Pohlig from Cherry Street Books thanked everyone that participated in the "Where's Waldo?" event.
- Strike Out Illiteracy Bowling Tournament is set for Sept. 18th at Garden Center Lanes.
- Echo Press Women's Showcase is Oct. 4th.

- Chamber of Commerce has a Weekly Business Outlet - add your upcoming events to the chamber website to be included <http://www.alexandriamn.org/events/>

Next month's speaker is Top Secret!

Be sure to check your email for updates. :)

**DMA Event dates for 2012**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Fall in Love Festival         | Sep 20 - 22          |
| Girls Night Out               | Sep 20 from 4 - 7 pm |
| Trick or Treat                | Oct 31               |
| Black Friday                  | Nov 23               |
| Hometown Christmas Experience | Dec 6 - 9            |
| Men's Night Out               | TBD                  |

**Next General Meeting:** September 21th, 2012 at 8 AM