

Downtown Improvement Committee

Minutes – May 8, 2026

Attending: Marylou Blaisdell, Fouad Mahfuz, Edward Haynes, Elisa Drift, Phillip Sconstas, Michael Buckley, Liz Hannan, Rich Lannan

Also, in attendance Alyssa O'Mera – GAD

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m.

Discussion Topics Discussed:

Report from Edward and Liz on Main Street Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Unhoused population in downtowns and how various towns are working together.
- Projects that connect the communities – music, events, etc.
- Clean teams – Liz is working with DPW and Health department on a project.

Liz Hannan also reported:

- Events planned for the May 23-25 river events.
- City arts asked for financial support for mural paintings on various buildings. The committee suggested Liz contact them with a project plan and also send to Positive Street Art.
- Wayfinding signs for downtown – digital wayfinding cost anywhere from 12,000 – 16,000, analog substantially lower. Discussion on analog versus digital, cost, use, etc. Liz will get cost for analog and design for June meeting.
- Dinning barriers will be dropped May 8th. Six restaurants are involved this year.

Discussion on planters throughout downtown and what is needed for this year. Philip will contact parks and streets to review what is needed.

Report from Great American Downtown – Taste is set for June 17th, the downtown piano program will also launch at this time. Great American Downtown will launch the duck race during the river opening May events.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.