

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETING
COMMERCIAL AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 6:30-8:30pm
Holiday Inn Express, 1140 24th Street

I. Welcome and Introductions (10-15 minutes)

Amber Lynch, Neighborhood Planner, City of Des Moines Community Development Dept.

- a) Brief overview of the Drake Neighborhood Plan
- b) Introductions – name, affiliation

II. Examples of University / Commercial District Partnerships (45-50 min)

Brief presentation with partnership ideas

- a) How can Drake students take ownership of Dogtown?
 - i. How can they be involved in the streetscape project?
 - ii. What other opportunities for partnership / engagement exist?

III. Business-Owner Input (5-10 min)

- a) Review goals identified so far
- b) What input is needed from DABA members?

IV. Conclusion

- a) Reschedule July meeting date
- b) Who should be invited to the Forest Ave discussion?

Meeting Notes:

Amber Lynch, City Planner, went through a power point presentation with various examples of partnerships between commercial districts and universities, with an emphasis on projects driven by student involvement. Examples included: streetscape projects where students designed banners, murals, or other public art; student organizations as champions of a commercial district or with representatives on a business organization board; and discount programs.

The group discussed how to engage students so that they take some ownership of the Dogtown area. Deric Gourd noted the lack of commercial space on University, east of 23rd, where the commercial lots have low density development. The group reiterated the desire to see the blocks between 23rd-21st eventually developed at a higher density. However, Deric stated that if this happens the space will be mostly private, and asked how we can plan for more public space for gathering or public art. Amber suggested that rather than setting aside an entire parcel for a park space, a certain percentage of each lot could be set aside and dedicated to public use.

The group talked about other ways to get students interested in Dogtown. Woody Wasson noted that it might be beneficial to get students involved with DABA because if they take interest in a

project, they could persuade Drake University to support it. He suggested approaching the president of the student body, and perhaps creating a student board position for both DABA and the DNA. The group also discussed tapping into the Greek system and partnering with them. Deric mentioned that many of the fraternities and sororities are outgrowing their housing, causing them to remove kitchens and other services. There may be opportunity to provide some of these services in the adjacent commercial areas.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22nd, 6:30-8:30 pm and will focus on Forest Ave. Location TBA.

June 16th, 2010, 8:00 am – Drake Area Business Association meeting

Amber Lynch & Deric Gourd attended the DABA meeting on June 16th and reviewed some of the ideas that the Commercial Areas committee has discussed so far.

The group discussed having a central calendar of events, and also coordinating Drake University events with special promotions or events in the area businesses.

Those in attendance were open to the idea of including a student position on the Boards of DABA and the DNA. The business owners were also receptive to including members of the Roosevelt Cultural District and the Uptown Shopping Center. Woody will invite those business owners to attend a future meeting so they can discuss how to better partner together.

Woody indicated that the stakeholder committee for the streetscape is assembled and ready to go, but they still need a representative from the DNA. Eldon McAfee was the Board representative on the infrastructure/streetscape planning committee, so Deric will inquire if he will continue on the stakeholder committee.

Amber invited the DABA members to attend future planning meetings. Woody will forward the meeting dates and agendas.