



A collaboration of business owners, property owners, local officials and individuals dedicated to the revitalization and growth of Caro's downtown and the surrounding business area!

Blueprint Advisory Facilitation Board Meeting Minutes • March 10, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Attendees

Attendance	Name	Position	Term
Absent	Mike Bauerschmidt	Member	Concurrent w/Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Don Beavers	Member	Concurrent w/Position
Absent	Angie Farris	Member	Exp 10/09
Absent	Mike Henry	Chairman	Concurrent w/Position
Absent	Louise Hodges	Member	Exp 10/10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Rick Lipan	Vice Chairman	Exp 10/09
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Kris McArdle	Facilitator/Secretary	Concurrent w/Contract
Absent	Jim McLoskey	Member	Exp 10/10
Absent	Bob Moore	Member	Exp 10/10
Absent	Susan Rickwalt-Holder	Member	Exp 10/10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Janice Schrader	Member	Exp 10/09
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Tom Striffler	Member	Concurrent w/Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Ed Volway	Member	Exp 10/10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	Patty Volway	Member	Exp 10/09
Guests Present:	Ray Vargo, Resident		

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Secretary Kris McArdle distributed minutes prior to meeting via e-mail and then included them in the meeting packet for the Board meeting.
- b. Tom Striffler motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2010, as presented, seconded by Patty Volway, and approved by all present. No objections were made.

4. Public Comments

- a. Guest Ray Vargo expressed his concern regarding possible cameras being installed in the downtown area – “Is there really a need for them or is this more like big brother watching?”
 - i. Patty Volway shared that according to the Caro Chief of Police there is a need for the cameras as a means to catching those who are violating the downtown area; especially, late at night.

5. Facilitator/Secretary Update

- a. Technical Services Press Release
 - i. The release turned into more of an in-depth article, which has been completed and distributed to Thumb Area media. A copy of the article was included in the Board packet.
 - ii. One of those media contacts was Amy Joles of the Tuscola County Advertiser. Secretary Kris McArdle spoke to Joles at the first Community Watch Group meeting and she said she would include it in one of their upcoming progress sections.
- b. Miscellaneous
 - i. Secretary Kris McArdle shared her frustrations with the progress of the group, the number of non-attendees and the lack of follow through on homework assignments and commitments.
 1. Discussion ensued.
 2. Tom Striffler shared with respect to the non-attendees that we're not necessarily an entity but more of a community group.
 3. The overall consensus was we need to get re-energized and recruit new people to the group; especially, folks who are more committed to the positive progress of Caro.
 - ii. McArdle also shared an article about the Downtown Saginaw Association doing a Downtown Summit. McArdle suggested we do something similar.
 1. The group decided to do a Town Hall meeting in May with the focus being on Blueprint to Main Street.
 2. McArdle will put together handouts and ask Michigan Main Street representatives to be present.
 3. Locations for this meeting were discussed and some options included: TACA, P.J. O'Brien Catering, other half of Caro Pool & Spa, or another vacant building.
 - iii. A local business owner created a *Friends of Downtown Caro* Facebook page. A copy of the info was shared with the group.
 - iv. Patty Volway shared an update from the first Community Watch Group meeting.
 1. McArdle will attend the April 7 meeting in an effort to promote the Blueprint to Main Street effort, and encourage folks to attend the May Town Hall meeting.
 - v. Volway had e-mailed McArdle information on a *Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program*. McArdle asked her to further explain the information.
 1. The grant is for municipalities only and is focused on green initiatives.

6. Old Business

- a. Caro Main Street Future
 - i. Secretary Kris McArdle shared the letter of interest for the Michigan Main Street Associate Level program was submitted in advance of the deadline and a confirmation e-mail was received.

- ii. We are awaiting the official application now, which is due the beginning of May.
 - iii. McArdle shared an update for the DDA meeting, which included Mike Henry's motion to extend her independent contractor agreement through June 2011. The motion was accepted by the Board and McArdle.
 - 1. The agreement includes up to 20 hours of work monthly.
 - 2. With the extension of McArdle's contract, an update will be sent to the Michigan Main Street group to flop Rick Lipan and McArdle from primary to secondary (respectively).
 - iv. Discussion concerning Blueprint to Main Street ensued.
 - 1. Of course, it's been repeatedly stated, we need more engaging participation from the community.
 - 2. A Caro Blueprint to Main Street Town Hall meeting will be held in May.
 - 3. Patty Volway believes the strength of our historic preservation will be key to the Michigan Main Street program and their acceptance of us. She proceeded to ask a couple questions with respect to this:
 - a. When does the Michigan Main Street introduce/educate us on this matter?
 - i. McArdle to follow up on.
 - b. What type of assessment is included and is there a fee?
 - i. If not included, is this something we should consider seeking a grant for.
 - ii. McArdle to follow up on.
 - c. Don Beavers is cautious of this due to the possible negative economic cost and regulations.
- b. Homework Assignment –Code of Ordinances
- i. Brief discuss took place since most did not complete the homework.
 - ii. Per Tom Striffler, it's automatic that changes in the B-1 Zoning will take effect as buildings are changed and/or modified.
 - iii. The group agreed to table this until the 4-point committees are established. This would be assigned to the design committee.
- c. Tactical Action Plan Highlights
- i. Per discussion at February meeting our task were narrowed down.
 - ii. The next step would be to then assign them to one of the 4-point committees. This was done at the meeting. See Excel file for updates.

7. Caro Area Update

- a. Downtown/DDA
 - i. The DDA is moving forward with purchasing the smaller hanging basket for the downtown lampposts.
 - ii. Discussion took place about the idea of removing the building in the parking lot on the north side in the second block to add more parking. Discussions are in the early stages only.

- b. City
 - i. Tom Striffler shared the City is participating in a three-county grant for updating to energy efficient LED lighting, including: DPW, Fire Hall, Waste Water Management and Main Street.
- c. Chamber
 - i. Absent
- d. County – Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
 - i. Absent

8. New Business

- a. Discussion took place regarding the need for a welcome packet that would include ordinances, rules and regulations, business resources, etc.
- b. Another discussion entailed the need for having to obtain a business license.
- c. Neither issue was settled on or assigned – this will be tackled once the 4-point committees are established.

9. Announcements

- d. None

10. Adjournment

- a. Janice Schrader motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Striffler, and accepted by all present. No objectives were made.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

12. Next meeting

- a. Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Caro Municipal Building

Respectfully submitted by: Secretary, Kris C. McArdle