

Summary of the Annual Standing Committees Meeting

January 18th, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance – 8:30AM

Prayer – Jim Buchanan

Call to Order / Roll Call – Savannah Burgett

Welcome / State of City – Mayor Brenda Stadsholt

The City of Havana has been involved in the Downtown Revitalization and Streetscape program since 2015 when the 353 Group, Todd Thompson and Eric Reader were hired as consultants. The Revitalization Program was put into place to save our historic downtown buildings with the City paying 75% and business owner's paying 25% as well as the 2% revolving fund has helped fund 33 downtown projects. Each business plan submitted outlined specific plans and timelines for completion. Ron Hills, Bob Cooper and Andy French reviewed the Business Plans. These plans are now reviewed by Brenda Davenport-Fornoff, Bob Cooper and Nick Urish. The TIF 1, which expires in 2021 and the TIF 2 which is contiguous, enabled all of us to change our downtown into a robust community welcoming tourists. The City appreciates the Downtown Merchant Revitalization committee members who helped move Havana forward.

The Comprehensive Plan was updated and completed in 2013 – 2015 with a community committee meeting once a month in The Riverside Club. It had not been revised since 1967. We are presently making 5 year revisions and updates to be completed in March 2021. These revisions will include our Revitalization / Streetscape Projects and Grant Funding. The City of Havana has received the following grants –

- 1.) CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) since 2013.
 - a. Ward 3 – 11 Homes 2013 – 2015
 - b. Ward 2 – 9 Homes 2016 – 2017
 - c. City Wide – North/West End – 10 Homes \$44,000 - \$45,000 Homeowners (Start work Jan. 21) 2018 – Present

- 2.) The EDA Matching Grant - \$720,000 awarded in 2016 for Business Park Infrastructure Improvement was completed October 2020.
- 3.) The ITEP, started in 2015.
 - a. Sidewalk to Business Park Bidding – July 2021
 - b. R./R. / 136 – IDOT
- 4.) USDA Rural Art Grant – Murals
- 5.) The City applied for 2 grants in 2020 – CARES with the help from Gary Davis – Phase B
- 6.) Small Business Owners received COVID help.
- 7.) Presently we are working to restore our Historic Water Tower through a grant written by an intern of Farnsworth.

IEPA – Clean up – South End – John Kachanuk

Business Park – We continue to seek new businesses for job creation

Riverside Club – Volunteer Committee – 2008 – Present – Continue to meet – Senior Citizen Dinner

Continue partnership and team work – 3rd Tuesday Coffee – Chamber of Commerce

The 2 Riverboat visits in summer of 2018 helped us see the importance of marketing our town which is what we are now working on with McDaniels Marketing and working with Kathie Brown on tourism.

The City Center was completed in 2015 and was first used by the Ministerial Association to co-host the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast – 2019. We have postponed until April but the Havana Pastors honored First Responder's Day with a full ceremony at Riverfront Park in October 2020.

City Center has hosted many business gatherings and meetings since March with social distancing – COVID-19, making it the conference / meeting center for our community.

- Weekly City Update with WDUK
- Welcome Gracie Mott to the Park District.
- Closing of Havana Power Plant – they continue to secure City Fire Protection through VISTRA / purchase of firetruck – working with county.

- Working with county on Opportunity Zone / Power Plant closing
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- IRBS Land Lease – 5 years. (Civil defense building) Across from VFW – worked with Cargill to take down grain bins.
 - Future walking museum.

The General / Reserve Fund continues to support 2 years of City operation if needed. The annual budget is available on the ‘www.havanail.gov’ website.

J.K. Rowling was said, “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

It is important to our community members for all of us to continue to work together through positive support. Together, we all make a difference and we will continue to move Havana forward with pride and optimism.

Introduce Brenda Davenport-Fornoff – Economic Development

- Summary of Economic Development from March – January
 - Flag Pole and flag – installation and ceremony September 12, 2020
 - Firefighters brought the flag up Main Street
 - Vietnam Veteran – Mike Hagney raised the flag
 - Savannah Burgett – sang the National Anthem
- Benches & Trash Cans
 - Have been installed up and down Main Street:
 - Riverside Club Renovation & Restoration Committee
 - City Hall Havana Mayors, City Council and Staff Members
 - Public Works Directors and Employees
 - Public Safety Chiefs and Employees
 - Havana National Bank
 - Mason District Hospital
 - L. Kahn & Son

Snedeker Risk Management in Memory of Ron Hills

April Burgett

- Façade Program

We have had several businesses participate in this 50/50 program

Painting the façade and adding awnings

- Business Park

We have completed the second phase. It is shovel-ready. There are 33 acres for development. I have been working with Peoria Economic Development Council listing the site.

- Business Spotlights

I randomly draw business names and then spotlight them on the City Facebook page.

We are able to recognize dedicated and loyal businesses.

- Walking Museum

To increase tourism and the visitor experience we are working on a “walking museum”.

- Historic Water Tower

Working with Rick Noble to get the Water Tower listed on the Most Endangered Historic Places for 2021.

End of Economic Development Report.

Chamber of Commerce update – April Burgett

- Things have been moving along immensely well during the last few years thanks to the redirection and refocus of not only Chamber members but of the City as well.
- We have really put emphasis on revitalization of downtown and taking full advantage of the national trend we are seeing right now which is people going away from the typical city hub and large chain stores and franchises going out of business to many people seeking to visit small, exciting towns just like ours.
- There are three cornerstones that I have stood by and encourage everyone else to also: progress, partnerships and positivity. Progress has been unprecedented and continues to

be endless, partnerships that have been formed are truly invaluable and positivity, be a cheerleader not only for yourself but for *each other*.

- In 2021, I want everyone to be ready. We are on the brink of an explosion of exposure, booming tourism and thriving business in our small town. The City of Havana is on the cusp of greatness and our main focus is keep our foot on the gas. I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Opportunity for Committee Reports

Public Comment

Closing and thank you to all of those who serve on the Standing Committees

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to our Annual Standing Committee Meeting!

We will keep Moving Forward with Pride and Optimism!