



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Study Session

Item -2

Update on Downtown "Vision" and Previous Plans

Staff Contact: Downtown Business Improvement District

Council Agenda Memo

From: Downtown Grand Island/Main Street Program

Meeting: February 19, 2008

Subject: Downtown Grand Island Updates

Item #'s: 2

Presenter(s): Representatives of the Business Improvement District for Downtown

Background

In April 2005 the Business Improvement District #5 (Downtown Grand Island) presented a plan to the City Council. Since that time, the Downtown has become associated with the Nebraska Lied Main Street, a four part national approach to development of downtowns. In addition, because of the change in Councilmembers, it is appropriate to update the Council on the status of downtown and the priorities for re-development.

Discussion

The Nebraska Lied Main Street Program involves four components: 1) economic restructuring; 2) design; 3) promotions; and 4) organization. Each of the four components is equally as important as the others in maintaining the health of a downtown. Through a series of stakeholder meetings in 2005, the Business Improvement Board for the downtown developed a series of priorities. Those priorities are: renovation of historic buildings and upper level development, parking solutions, arts and humanities center, and physical environment/street scape. These priorities fit nicely with the Main Street areas of focus and the Board has been diligently working towards meeting their goals. The Board has also worked with the Community Redevelopment Authority to implement a grant program to assist with fire sprinkler systems and for development of quiet zones in the downtown area. This summer, the BID will be recreating a new Business Improvement District to continue the work at ensuring downtown remains viable. Discussions have taken place with city officials relative to the creation of this new District. Initial conversations have centered around the plans for the next five years and the projects the downtown can reasonably expect to complete within that time frame.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.