

Bristol CORE Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2018

Present: Ian Albinson, Kelly Hamshaw, Carolyn Ashby, Valerie Capels

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of minutes from last meeting January 17, 2018
- III. **Open issues**

A. Board Members - the ongoing saga... Gary at state had made some suggestions, Ian still hoping for Adam/Bristol Bev and Jess/Tandem. Also looking at the new Main St approach from the national folks (project-based) to see if that changes things and might make more sense, and looking at bylaws and what kind of commitment is technically entailed.

Pitch to folks - project-based might help folks commit to at least events, increases awareness of what's going on around town, if we can say monthly for a few hours.

Aidan is still in. Scott H would be willing to help with bylaw re-do. Kelly talked to Jim at Co-housing.

B. Local Community Initiatives - seemed like it was a great group, seemed like they were cranking along, saying all the right things, did their presentations which were good, BUT then the final reports came in and were totally sub-par. Reports got handed back with opportunity to revise and hand back in to improve the grade. Main St Makeover team was a larger group and that may have contributed to disorganization ("somebody else will take care of that"). Ended up getting a "memo" rather than an in-depth report or one person turned in what they had gotten done.

Kelly talking with colleagues about general issues -- students having trouble getting from the creativity they generate in their own heads to actually doing the concrete actions, like picking up the phone to get a sign cost quote. Maybe the students just didn't adjust to the shift in atmosphere and structure from larger group classes they are more used to.

On a side-ish note, new colleague Steve Kostell who is an applied design guy from Indiana and creative economies "guru" -- had a paper-making venture at the Univ using farm products! He lives in Colchester, has been to Bristol, really loved it. Kelly will invite to a Board meeting so we can chat. Has done placemaking grant-writing, would be a great resource.

C. Main Street business changes - lu-lu's building changing ownership mid-March and biz is moving to Vergennes; Danielle connected Laura with the Vergennes Ec Dev folks who worked really hard to court them. Production going into Kennedy Bros with Retail to follow downtown, maybe just off Main.

Verde Mt closing. A Vermont products shop will be going in there, don't think Carol will be running it. Annie at Art on Main is concerned about the potential for competition -- they will be carrying Reed's wood items, so... if it goes more that direction,

it's a concern. We *imagine* something more food-centered, but it would be good to check with Carol to get a better sense.

About the lu-lu building, John still not sure exactly what will happen there because he hasn't had a chance to really get into the building yet to find out how much renovation is going to be needed. Says he's got some people interested in the space that he's talking to. Not sure about timing until he gets in to look at it.

Kelly talked to Eliza and Erlé at Farmhouse Chocolates about moving to Main St, Eliza says lots of folks are asking the same question. Ian says they are talking to John, but they do have another year+ on their lease with Carol/Tom. John is talking with V Smiley who may be looking to consolidate her production/etc. into one space, and some others who might also end up being a little collective all sharing a commercial kitchen.

22 Main St, old Vintage & Thrift, is still in "limbo" with the lawyers (transferring from Eric Forand to old owner Michael Reed), John M is also interested in perhaps buying it and is in touch with Michael Reed. It's a building that needs some work, and he does take care off his buildings, so that would be nice. If it's the right price, Ian thinks he'd go for it, and then we'd have to figure out what would go in there. Melissa at Recycled Reading is interested, wants certain things done to the building (mostly cosmetic). If John buys it, the renovations will be more extensive than that and might price Melissa out. Of course, that's totally way up the air anyway.

Trading Post building has a potential group of health/wellness folks being organized by Becca Kodis. It's a bigger group (16!!) than we had pulled together, so that's promising, but John is really looking for a clear biz plan which is not there yet. He does also have another person looking at the front portion, but he's holding them off in hopes that the healing group will really get their act together and have a few people make a serious commitment to make it fly. Giving them another month or so to pull it together. Ian thinks it's promising, if it can get in there and built out, that it could really grow, but getting over the initial hurdle is tough.

Main St Shoe - Ian hasn't talked with him for a while, building is still for sale, heard that lu-lu had talked with him and the rent he was asking for was way too high for them. He's been talking about bailing out for so long, but biz seems like it's improving a bit, so who knows. Was also talking to someone about office space, which would be a shame. He has no clear date or vision which makes it tough to work with him on it.

IV. New issues

A. Capital campaign - goal is \$5,000, same as the 2016 campaign, skipped 2017 (that was Carolyn's bad, just to fess up). We're at about \$3,280 at the moment, individuals and businesses. Ian sending emails and follow-ups, including who has already donated to provide incentive. Money just goes to overall budget; some of which is still going to the back billing from Kimball's.

**note to change language to "annual campaign"

SIDE NOTE: it would be good to talk about how much of our budget is spent locally, would be an interesting breakout to do. Valerie wondered if that goes into the state reports that we do. It doesn't, though we think it could potentially be a really powerful thing for them to collect. We should nudge Gary!!

The perennial question of overlapping fundraising -- annual campaign, Pocock Rocks, and Flower Baskets. One option: figuring out who likes which thing and target appropriately. Another option: move timing of campaign to the fall, maybe October. Try to get it in before we start ramping up for Cool Yule.

B. Benefit Dinner - ADDED topic in conversation - Kelly talked with Sanderson about a benefit dinner at Bobcat. Ian planning to wrap up annual campaign by April 1, so if a March date is available that would be great. Getting people there takes social media, networking, and getting some “ringers” to book the big table and bring friends. Do table tents and such with info, maybe some kind of giveaway.

C. Pocock Rocks - June 16 - started working on this, contacted Heritage Toyota and Skinny Pancake for big sponsor spots. SP said no, alas, doesn't really fit their thing. Trying to connect with Cyclewise as another possibility; bikes, etc. would be fun to have on the street. Budget is approx. \$10,000. General description of history for Valerie and current structure. Vendors down the middle, 2 stages, going to do 6 acts this year, start on smaller stage.

Aidan is working on music already, Starline Rhythm Boys are booked. Talking to Kat Wright, has connections at Zeno so trying to work that connection (that would be awesome!!!). Also, Aidan has a band he plays with at Hatch... but feels like he can't really “book himself” but we feel like as long as we are providing oversight and approve them, then it's fine. Kelly **very** highly recommends them.

Ian feeling like we may not need a working committee ahead of time this year since most tasks have gotten streamlined. The biggest thing will be having enough volunteers on the day of event. Feels we've found a good balance of vendors that we like and don't compete, Aidan is very organized with the music and sound, etc. Kelly brought up the alcohol area issues -- mostly needed much better cordoning. Scott H might be interested in helping with that. Carolyn suggested talking to the high school woodshop folks; if enough ahead of time, they can probably make stuff.

Kelly may/may not be available (wedding that weekend).

V. Misc

A. Town Appropriation - no changes to our request

B. Downtown Conference - added in conversation - June 8. Kelly asked if anything changes with Darla out of the picture, Ian says no. The night-before dinner will be at Mary's; night-of “happy hour” might be at Cohousing (which would be fun!). Looking at focusing on tours and getting folks outside and into town -- the Green, improvement projects, etc. Kelly will be around and willing to help out.

VI. Next Meeting – March 21, 2018

VII. Adjournment