

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Portland Main Street  
Design Committee,  
Thursday, May 20, 2010 at Cheeky Monkeys  
176 Kent St, Portland, MI**

Present: Kathy Parsons, Tom Dempsey, Patrick Reagan

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Patrick reported that Dornbos Signs has made some suggestions on design of the Wayfinding Signs, and will approximate the colors we requested and will make a sample sign for demonstration purposes and for purposes of final approval before the final copies are run. Kathy and Patrick will do a walk around downtown to finalize copy and location requirements before final copies are run. Douglas Signs is not being forthcoming with work and does not meet requirements, so Dornbos will work with us on price and signs.

Tom reported that Colleen French has agreed to re-work the planters at Bridge and Kent, and at the Maple Street lot to clean up the weeds and plant flowers and perennials.

Kathy reported that an issue was raised by a downtown businessowner about smokers who the new law requires exit the bars to smoke are standing in the shelter of their entryway in inclement weather to smoke, throwing their butts indiscriminately in the entryway, and that the entryway smells like an ashtray the next day. The committee discussed ways in which the businessowner could discourage the smokers without causing hard feelings or possibly losing customers. Ideas included a gate across the entrance, which the committee felt would not be an appealing look to the nice façade after hours, and would be off-putting to the public, an ash receptacle near the doorway to encourage smokers to use that instead of the entry, which while it does not meet all of the businessowners needs, seemed to be the least off-putting in the long run. Kathy will report the discussion to the businessowner.

Patrick reported that Cheeky Monkeys has agreed to provide customer coupon discounts for the parking flier pilot project to gauge the efficacy of the program. If it is well-received by customers, the project will be opened up to other merchants and restaurants.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 7:00 pm at City Hall

KGP