

**First Avenue Uptown College District Meeting**  
**Coe College Alumni House**  
**Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009**  
**12-1 p.m.**

**Present:** Scott Crosby (EnCompass), Rod Pritchard (Coe College), Kristy Upah (Coe College), John Wasta (Pioneer Workspace Solutions), Kevin Platz (Cedar Rapids Area Association of Realtors), Lt. Chuck Mincks (CRPD), Monica Vernon (City Council Member), Jeff Frese (Commonwealth Apartments), Richard Marsceau (Brewed Awakenings), Christian (Guest), Drew Westberg (Department of Community Development)

**I. Agenda Items**

**A. Welcome by Scott**

- Thank you to everyone who attended the 2009 holiday party! We had 25 attendees. A special thank you to Who's on First as they donated all of the appetizers for this event!

**B. 2009 Updates**

- *Annual meeting:* Motion by Rod Pritchard, second by Kevin Platz, to revise sections 6.01 and 9.04 of the Bylaws of the FAUCD to change the annual meetings of the Board of Directors (Steering Committee) and Members, respectively, from December to January each year. Passed 10-0. Since neither the Board of Directors (Steering Committee), nor the members held an annual meeting in December 2008, the respective annual meetings were effectively held with the January 2009 meetings of each group.
- *Re-election of Board of Directors and Steering Committee:* Motion by Rod Pritchard, Second by Monica Vernon; 10-0. The committee is listed below with their position & term expiration date.
  - **Scott Crosby: President, (3-year term), Jan. 2011**
  - **Richard Marsceau: Vice President, (3-year term), Jan. 2011**
  - **Brent Heinz: Treasurer, (2-year term), Jan. 2010**
  - **Kristy Upah: Secretary, (2-year term), Jan. 2010**
  - **Kevin Platz: (Renewed 1-year term), Jan. 2010**
  - **Phil Wasta: (Renewed 1-year term), Jan. 2010**
  - **Rod Pritchard: (Renewed 1-year term), Jan. 2010**
  - **Wade Hiner: New member, (3-year term), Jan. 2012**
- *Bi-monthly meetings:* Going forth, we will meet every other month from 12-1 p.m. in the Coe College Clark Alumni House.
- *Renewing applications:* Please fill out the new application form and send contributions (payable to the First Avenue Uptown College District) to Coe College, Attn: Kristy Upah by Feb. 6, 2009.
- *Window clings:* New window clings are in your packet. Put them in your window to make our district known in Cedar Rapids!
- **All members who were unable to attend this meeting will receive their packets via snail mail. Inside you will find a survey, the 2009 ballot, calendar, window cling and 2009 membership application. Please call Kristy if you did not receive this packet by Jan. 25.**

**C. City Update:**

**Drew Westberg:** Since the flood, the neighborhood planning process has shifted its focus. There is a three-area plan in place that will be discussed at district meetings, open to the public, for the 5-6 next months. Drew will forward on meeting information and announcements; when received, this will be posted to our Web site.

**Monica Vernon:** There were 70 national disasters from 2008 that Cedar Rapids is competing against to receive disaster recovery funding. The priority for flood recovery is as follows: 1) Finish housing, 2) Local/retail business revitalization, 3) Steam issue: There is a possibility of a buy-down, but three years is the quickest a new plant would be up and running.

#### **D. Police Update:**

Lt. Chuck Mincks is the CRPD representative for our area. Contact him with your concerns at 319-286-5347 or 319-521-3270 (cell). During this meeting, Mincks addressed the following topics:

- Crime rates are comparable to the national average. It is not unusual to see a spike of robberies with the current rates of unemployment and displacements. Cedar Rapids is not the “sin bin” of the Midwest!
- The idea of a community policing station in each district is still in discussion. The next step is to determine where each of the station locations will be. One option for our district is the former Keller Hall Furniture building.
- There are currently more uniformed and plain clothed officers working.
- There is a crime increase in and around rented/leased property. One speculation is that criminals tend to live in affordable housing, causing more offenses in these areas.
- Liquor & Tobacco Point moved into our district at 1545 First Ave. SE . The City Council voted to revoke the liquor license it had granted to this business in August as the new store violates a city ordinance which prohibits an establishment. The Liquor & Tobacco Point is appealing to the State Beverage Commission. (The issue was taken to the commission on Jan. 23, 2009. The official ruling will be decided within 30 days of the hearing date.)
- In order to control crime in our district, Mincks advises anyone who witnesses crime in our district to call in the incident as it occurs with a physical description and explanation of the event. All reported incidents are tracked; this measurable data is the best tool to use when reviewing an area and/or business.

***\*Please call 319-286-5491 to report crimes in our area.\****

#### **F. Grant Updates**

- Recap: We submitted a grant to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for a total of \$18,000 on Oct. 15, 2008. We were not chosen as a 2008 grant recipient, but will reapply for available grant funding in 2009.
- Grant applications for the spring grant cycle are due Monday, Feb. 16, 2009 for the following grant programs: *Community Fund, Field of Interest funds and various Competitive Donor-Advised funds.*
- The overall goal will remain to create a destination district with banners, benches, bike racks and planters. This will help beautify the district, create district boundaries and encourage redevelopment within the district.

***\*If you have any grant writing experience, please contact Scott or Kristy!\****

#### **E. Future Goals: Developers & Membership growth**

*Developers:* The steering committee meeting will continue to discuss potential developers interested in revitalizing our district.

*Members:* The FAUCD is approaching 40 members. Our 2009 goal is to have 60 members. Renew your 2009 membership by visiting the Web site and completing the 2009 membership application. Membership contributions payable to the First Avenue Uptown College District may be sent to Coe College, c/o Kristy Upah.

***II. Next Meeting-March 19, 2009 @ 12-1 p.m. at the Coe College Clark Alumni House. Guest speaker TBD.  
If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kristy Upah at 319-399-8581 or kupah@coe.edu.***

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