



**Downtown Association of Fairbanks  
2010 Annual Meeting  
Courthouse Square  
October 13th, 5:30 – 8 pm**

**Call to Order and Welcome, Report of quorum, Notice of meeting & Approval of minutes**  
Board President Gary Conatser called the meeting to order at 5:35. Gary thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that this year's meeting was held in the lower level of courthouse square to showcase a large downtown vacancy with lots of potential.

Gary reported that with 23 members already present, there was a quorum achieved. He noted that notice of the meeting was mailed September 30, which met the Bylaws requirement of notice being send at least 10-days prior to the event. He also noted that several e-mail reminders went out, and there was notice posted on the Association's website in early September.

Gary asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 2009. Vivian Stiver moved, Ken Henry seconded and there being no discussion, the motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Ken Henry announced that there were four seats up for election and announced that the Nominating Committee of the Whole brought forward four seat-seekers: Gary Conatser, Bart LeBon, Sheri Olesen, Mike Webb.

**Election of Board Members and Officers**

Ken called for nominations from the floor. There being none, he called the question for the members in good standing seeking election to the Board. There being no objection, Gary Conatser and Bart LeBon were re-elected and Sheri Olesen and Mike Webb were elected to 3-year-terms.

The new board of directors met for the election of officers and elected to postpone election of officers until the next scheduled meeting, a half-day Annual Operating Plan retreat on October 27.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting was adjourned for the presentation and reception.

## **2009's Successes and Challenges**

Executive Director David van den Berg presented a 2010 recap of the organization by PowerPoint, highlighting our partnerships with Festival Fairbanks and the Parking Authority to provide 'supplemental services' downtown. He then outlined how the Downtown Association's work is conceptualized as that which benefits downtown today – the “downtown we have” – and that which benefits downtown tomorrow – the “downtown Fairbanks envisions.” Successes of the former include fielding the CSP program, making significant strides in marketing and promoting downtown, hosting signature events, coordinating monthly events and support other large events like Tired Iron, Yukon Quest, etc. Examples of the latter include slow, steady implementation of the Vision Fairbanks downtown plan, as well as much initiative by those who live and work downtown to create physical, tangible change downtown.

### Questions:

Q: Ken Kokjer: how many hits do you get on your website? Sure would be an interesting factoid to put into one of your articles.

A: As few as 10,000/month; as many as 30,000/month in May and June, as we get into the Midnight Sun Festival

Q: Paul Eaglin: You depicted a deficit on your profit/loss. How will you cover that?

A: The loss will be less since what we depicted here is twelve months from September 30, 2009 to present. But there is and will be a deficit come year-end. I put forward and the Board approved a budget for 2010 that relied on deficit spending from reserves.

Q: Sue Sprinkle: With a new Mayor, how will Vision Fairbanks fare?

A: Mayor-elect Cleworth has voted against every implementation measure that has come his way. But he could surprise all of us. He is downtown – really knows downtown and really cares for it. So he could get personally involved and help to move the revitalization, even if he does not consult the Vision Fairbanks play book. Everyone who cares about downtown revitalization and the unique roles that only government can play – like creating new legislation or spending for infrastructure – should express that to him, or any other elected official.

## **6 – 8 PM Reception with food, beverages, entertainment**

Refreshments provided by Gambardella's Pasta Bella, Westmark Hotel, The Fudge Pot, Lavelle's Bistro, l'assiette de Pomegranate, and Bobby's Downtown. Jazz entertainment provided by Jass Farm Jazz. And a Dance Theater Fairbanks troupe performed a special dance.

## **7 PM Award Presentations**

David van den Berg and Gary Conatser presented the following awards:

**MAC Federal Credit Union receives the 'Sponsor of the Year Award.'** MAC Federal Credit Union generously sponsored both of downtown's signature events – the Midnight Sun and the

Winter Solstice festivals. These festivals bring countless friends, families and visitors downtown, and without contributions from businesses such as MAC Federal Credit Union, our sponsor of the year, we would not be able to host these great events downtown.

**Golden Valley Electric Association receives the ‘*Partner of the Year Award.*’** GVEA supports downtown events and activities all year long for a multitude of organizations by performing the unique service of hanging banners from light poles and across the Cushman Street Bridge. Golden Valley Electric Association makes our community a better place and we thank them for partnering with us.

**Co-Op Arts receives the ‘*Revitalization of the Year Award.*’** The art co-operative, comprised of ten Fairbanks artists, brings an art gallery back downtown, a vital development in downtown’s revitalization.

**Chris Miller receives the ‘*Vision Fairbanks Volunteer of the Year Award.*’** While downtown revitalization will become a market-driven process, new legislation and the expenditure of public dollars on road infrastructure precede the entry of private capital into downtown. Setting the stage for economic development downtown is for now a political process in which Chris Miller has distinguished himself in the last year.

**JL Properties, Inc receives the ‘*Renovation of the Year Award.*’** Arguably the most beautiful building downtown, J&L Properties, Inc repainted historic Court House Square this summer. The renovation of an iconic building of this size is compelling and we thank JL Properties, Inc for their significant renovation and beautification of downtown Fairbanks.