

City of Biddeford
Downtown Development Commission
June 05, 2017 6:30 PM City Hall
Conference Room 2nd Floor

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Welcome Guests**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1. May 1, 2017 Downtown Development Commission Minutes
[5-01-2017 DDC Meeting Minutes.doc](#)
- 4. Budget Report**
 - 4.1. FY17 Budget Balance - \$4103.50
Clean Team until June 30th - approx. \$900
Use of balance of funds - to be discussed
FY18 Proposed Budget Status - \$0
- 5. Chairman Follow-ups/Updates**
- 6. Old Business**
 - 6.1. City Staff Update - Brad Favreau, Economic Development Coordinator
[6-05-2017 DDC WIFI Memo MAY 2017.doc](#)
- 7. New Business**
 - 7.1. Future Status of Downtown Development Commission
[6-05-2017 Biddeford eyes eliminating DDC-article.doc](#)
[6-05-2017 DDC Does new task force mirror existing group-Courier article.doc](#)
[6-05-2017 DDC on the Chopping Block-Courier article.doc](#)
[6-05-2017 Gateways needed Bidd Saco Courier article.doc](#)
- 8. Next Meeting**
- 9. Adjourn**



Commissioners Present: Durkin, Dubois, Edwards, Foley [NO QUORUM]

Commissioners Absent: Droggitis, Eon, Kelliher, Nielson, Shlaver

City Representative: Favreau

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I • Presentation from Mark Ouellette, Axiom: Re: Downtown WIFI

Research presented to DDC in Fall 2016 updated for current offers of sponsorship and sample contract for City of Biddeford.

- Proposed plan to cover all of downtown (Main Street) via four (4) WIFI hotspots.
- Existing sponsorship offers for one hotspot offered by Bangor Savings Bank, and GWI has pledged to provide internet to all hotspots for three (3) years.
- Next steps: DDC will draft memo for consideration of project by City Manager and City Council with all details of discussion and plan of project
- If approved, DDC members will work with Axiom/Mark to secure remaining sponsors to cover costs and solidify plan details as per needs of the City

II • Motion to Accept Minutes for April: Delayed due to lack of quorum

III • Chairperson's Remarks (Durkin)

• Budget Discussion

FY17 Budget balance \$1653 (spend down by June 30, 2017)

• Downtown Improvement District

Role of DDC will need to be considered depending on the decision of the City Council regarding Jim's proposal and approved FY18 budget

VI • Reports and Other Business

Downtown Improvement District and Parking Garage Discussion

City Staff Report, Brad –

- Waiting on Comprehensive Plan Committee (Greg) and will ensure it is distributed as soon as it is received
- Laconia Plaza Grand Opening May 11, Rain date May 18, access will be through Building 15 for now, wayfinding signs will be in place

VII • Meeting Adjourned (7:43p)

[Moved: Dubois, Second: Foley, Vote: Unanimous]

May 1 2017



TO: Jim Bennett, Biddeford City Manager

FROM: Biddeford Downtown Development Commission

CC: Brad Favreau

RE: Biddeford Downtown WIFI

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Based on discussion with Axiom (represented by Mark Ouellette) the DDC is recommending adoption of four (4) WIFI hotspots to cover Main Street. The proposed action (upon approval) will aim to be revenue neutral and provide a "value add" to our growing downtown as an attraction for visitors and locals alike. The plan is as follows:

- Bangor Savings Bank has agreed to sponsor one (1) hotspot including initial set up cost of \$3,000 for hardware/labor, and \$1,000 yearly maintenance fee from Axiom
- GWI has agreed to provide internet service to the hotspots for three (3) years, but the project will be charged an initial fee to string the cable to the hotspot locations (usually on rooftops)
- Axiom will provide all installation work, usage tracking, basic maintenance and troubleshooting for a fee based on the final number of hotspots installed
- Connection details: Login will function similar to airport connections: user must log in, view an ad from the sponsor, and be redirected to landing page of choice (most likely that of the sponsor). The connection can be time limited (e.g. 30 minutes per login), as well as restricted in terms of data load (to block usage of high-data sites such as Netflix) and content (blocking of unwanted sites with questionable content). The connection is not meant for exclusive use, but rather momentary convenience. Tracking data of users is based on dynamic IP addresses to protect privacy, Axiom does not store, sell, or give out user data except under subpoena
- Axiom is currently successfully serving public WIFI in: South Portland, Greenville, and Machias. They are installing projects this year in: Waterville, Eastport, and Millinocket
- Next steps: Upon approval, DDC members will aim to secure two-three (2-3) additional sponsors (e.g. UNE, Biddeford Savings Bank, SMHC) at the matching rate of \$3,000 per site. If two (2) are secured for a total budget of \$9,000, Mark believes we can cover the GWI set up cost and total yearly maintenance for all hotspots in year one. Costs should then be covered in subsequent years by sponsorships. The DDC also recommends the city lawyer assess any potential liability from misuse of public WIFI

Attached: Axiom Hotspot Proposal and Sample Contract for Biddeford Project
Axiom contact: Mark Ouellette, 207-272-5617 mark@connectwithaxiom.com

Biddeford eyes eliminating DDC

2017-06-01 / Front Page Journal tribune

By ALAN BENNETT

Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — Biddeford's Downtown Development Commission is up for elimination following approval of the city's \$31.3 million municipal budget on May 24.

City Manager Jim Bennett said Wednesday the city is considering eliminating the commission, or at the very least changing its role, as the city seeks downtown improvement district designation to bolster economic activity in the city center.

Development districts are areas within municipalities to be developed under specific programs designed to provide new employment opportunities while retaining existing employment, broaden the tax base and create an aesthetically pleasing and safe downtown environment.

Bennett said the city has budgeted more than \$80,000 for the district, which he said would go toward independently-staffing a board of directors who, working with business owners and community organizations, would raise and allocate funds for purposes in the downtown.

The need to fund the \$8,200 requested by the DDC — \$6,000 of which went to efforts to clean up the downtown — Bennett said, wasn't seen as necessary.

"(The DDC is) either going to end up changing their role to some degree or end up going away," he said Wednesday. "That's going to be a discussion they'll have to have."

The commission's goal is to encourage new growth in the downtown, as well as maintaining existing commercial businesses in addition to overseeing recommendations pertaining to use of the area.

Bennett said the DID designation will take care of the same goals, while moving those responsibilities away from the city. For the first year, he said, the DID will be funded with public money but in the future, the city won't be in charge of that.

"The DID is being funded in excess of \$80,000 for the same purposes (as the DDC) and so there's a significant investment that's being done now," he said. "The idea is that after this year the private, not-for-profit corporation, which has nothing to do with the city, will take over the leadership of that, instead of having a city committee ... handle that responsibility."

The group won't have to go away entirely, Bennett said, as the commission can resume its duties as a policy board, making recommendations to the City Council.

While Bennett said the group has been successful in its efforts to clean up the downtown and build a coalition of local business owners, city staff thinks those business owners should have more say in changes to the city's downtown than should a taxpayer-funded commission.

"We think those decisions ought to be made by the businesses themselves independent of municipal government," he said. "One of the goals is to have it be totally independent from the city rather than have a city function determine (those decisions)."

He also said the commission's work "made a bit of difference" but didn't accomplish all of the city's goals related to development in the city center.

"It made a but of difference, but just kind of scratching the surface as opposed to doing it in a way that I think will make a major difference in what we're trying to achieve," he said.

Staff Writer Alan Bennett can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 329 or abennett@journaltribune.com.

Does new task force mirror existing group?

April 21, 2016

By Ben Meiklejohn
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD An informal mayoral task force has been meeting for several months to discuss how to coordinate moving downtown forward. Mayor Alan Casavant said the committee consists of three city councilors and is chaired by himself.

The council members are Ward 2 City Councilor John McCurry, Ward 7 City Councilor Michael Ready and Councilor at large Marc Lessard.

City staff have also attended the task force meetings, including City Manager James Bennett, Director of Code Enforcement Roby Fecteau and Brad Favreau, an economic development and planning analyst for the city.

The council formed an ad hoc downtown policy and management committee Jan. 20, 2015, that includes councilors McCurry, Ready, Lessard and Ward 5 City Councilor Bob Mills. Council minutes and documents do not reflect what the stated purpose of that committee was, but Casavant said the group that has been meeting for the last three months is different than the ad hoc committee formed last year.

The newest task force was not confirmed by the city council and its formation is not documented in council minutes.

"The objective is to submit policies and recommendations that are needed to bring downtown to the next level ... With downtown changing so radically, we want to make sure we can switch the paradigm," Casavant said.

Although the Downtown Development Commission already exists, Casavant said it focuses more on downtown events and activities than policy and zoning changes, contracting the commission's mission statement and description in the city charter. Casavant said the downtown task force would like to form a larger resident committee that includes representation from a cross-section of interests, including the Biddeford-Saco Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Downtown Development Commission and Heart of Biddeford.

"We want to take on everything from parking to building facades, zoning changes and amenities," Casavant said. "We want to cultivate an ambience we got to make it appealing and how to make the public know it's safe."

Bill Durkin, chairman of the Downtown Development Commission, said he and commission Vice Chairman Julian Schlaver began attending meetings when they found out about the task force.

“They want to create a new committee to look at zoning, development, policy, to look at all these things,” Durkin said, “and I’m sitting there thinking, ‘Well that’s what DDC does.’ We’re all appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council.”

Durkin said the Downtown Development Commission was not established to be an events board, but rather, to address the same issues Casavant identified as the purpose of the mayoral downtown task force including reviewing downtown ordinances and recommending revisions to the policy committee.

“See, what has happened is, we did events for years. We did the Christmas

The DDC, according to city ordinance

- 1) Encourage and promote the expansion and development of existing commercial firms downtown and to promote and encourage the location of new commercial firms downtown.
 - 2) Through the Economic Development Office, establish and maintain files of data and information of interest and assistance for downtown publicity and marketing.
 - 3) Review downtown ordinances and recommend revisions to the Policy Committee.
 - 4) Serve as coordinator for such boards, merchant groups, commissions and City departments as shall be established from time to time to study matters relating to downtown parking, traffic circulation, historic districts, land use, public utilities, landscape, streetscape and a downtown comprehensive plan; hold downtown promotions and events; and promote and implement downtown beautification and cleanup projects.
 - 5) Work with the Economic Development Office to gather, correlate and preserve records, statistics, surveys and other data relating to downtown land classifications and uses, buildings, commercial firms, labor, and such matters that will enable it to carry out its functions and purposes.
 - 6) Perform such other functions as may be required or delegated by the Mayor and City Council.
- thing, Festival of Lights, but we handed that over to Heart of Biddeford because we realized we aren’t in the events business,” Durkin said. “There are a few events that we sponsor and get involved with but that’s not what we’re all about. We want to sink our teeth into it, whether it’s policy or creating infrastructure.

“So we’re not really all just events because that’s not what we’re supposed to be all about. If we can help bring in any businesses, help them get settled in or look at policy and zoning, that’s what we’re supposed to do.”

Durkin said the Downtown Development Commission has been reviewing how sidewalk construction scheduled to happen this year will affect downtown businesses, and addressing public concerns about security and safety.

Lessard said by meeting regularly as a downtown task force, councilors can discuss how to better coordinate the logistics to improve downtown.

“Our directive is to keep momentum in the city. What it boils down to is we all have day jobs, there’s only so much time that we can devote to doing things on a day-to-day basis,” Lessard said, “but by meeting frequently, we have the ability to make sure the staff continues to work on projects. The outcome is better for citizens if a project doesn’t take a year to figure out. It’s about getting things done quicker, being more efficient and decreasing the runways.”

The mayor’s task force has been meeting every one or two weeks on Fridays at 8 a.m. in Casavant’s office while the Downtown Development Commission meets monthly.

Lessard said he hopes the formation of a larger downtown group will eventually help address codes and zoning proposals that will expedite the development of downtown.

“If we can get more people involved and give them specific tasks, we can continue to push things forward,” Lessard said. “It’s simple project management, that’s what it’s about.”

Durkin said part of the Downtown Development Commission’s function, as stated in the city ordinance, is to take directives from the mayor and city council. If the council or mayor directed the commission to pursue changes in policy or zoning, Durkin said the commission could work with city staff to present necessary recommendations to the policy committee or city council.

Lessard said a larger resident group could set up subgroups to delve into specific downtown issues.

“Facades – what buildings should look like. We could have other groups to discuss parking, or street traffic, public safety, funding capacity,” Lessard said. “This is very exciting for the city, allowing us to get more done faster.”

In 2014, the council formed a public safety committee by amending the council rules. According to the Aug. 5, 2014 minutes, the committee was formed “for establishing and recommending ordinance language, code revisions and city policy in matters that relate to public safety.”

The council also formed an ad hoc downtown parking education committee in 2014, to educate the public about the city’s parking plans in advance of a referendum to ban the use of parking meters downtown. The referendum passed, removing the possibility that meters could be used to generate revenue to help pay for a municipal parking garage.

At an April 8 meeting in Casavant’s office, Bennett said the task force may want to do some outreach to the public about downtown as the city formalizes its strategic plan. Lessard suggested that the November election could be an opportunity to survey voters with a questionnaire.

“Are you willing to have your street paved last to save money? Are you willing to have larger class sizes to save money?” Lessard suggested as possible survey question examples.

Durkin said councilors on the task force have discussed forming a type of downtown district that might generate revenue through taxation or fees to pay for downtown services.

“(The downtown task force) just started loosely where they’re getting together and talking about downtown, ways of increasing revenue for more police and infrastructure costs instead of burdening the whole city,” Durkin said. “If they can move this forward and present it to the council a year from now or whatever, I think it’s got a lot of potential.”

The idea of creating a downtown business district was also discussed by the other ad hoc downtown policy and management committee that was formed in 2015.

At a Feb. 27, 2015 meeting of that committee, members discussed how different organizations had different boundaries and definitions of “downtown.”

“The first objective is to come up with a definition of downtown and then start talking about what might be needed,” Casavant had said at that meeting.

Lessard had also said at the February 2015 meeting of the original ad hoc downtown policy and management committee, that he wanted the city to move quickly in creating a defined downtown district.

“Portland has a downtown district that is taxed differently than the rest of the city,” Lessard said in 2015. “Take those dollars and resources and put them back in the district.”

The city council never created a downtown district and the ad hoc downtown policy and management committee didn’t forward any recommendations to the council to do so.

Casavant said the task force has discussed the Downtown Development Commission and whether it should continue in its current form or be replaced with a different organization to assist with development downtown. The Downtown Development Commission has existed as part of the city’s ordinance since the 1970s.

Durkin said dissolving the Downtown Development Commission “makes no sense.” Durkin said he was also “grilled” this year by the budget committee, when members asked him how the commission’s functions differed from the functions of Heart of Biddeford, a downtown development organization that was founded in 2004. Durkin said a municipal commission and a nonprofit organization are two types of groups that each have their own roles.

“That’s the beauty of having a municipal commission as opposed to HOB,” Durkin said. “While they can ask, and work with the city, we’re in a different situation where our demand can have a little more force behind it.”

Durkin said members of the Downtown Development Commission were not informed of or invited to the mayor’s downtown task force meetings, and are mostly unaware of what role the task force is to play in the development of downtown. Durkin said the task force at first did not publicize agendas and does not produce meeting minutes.

Although Durkin said he was “baffled” and “confused” about the purpose of the downtown task force, he has seen from past experience that a task force can help to move plans forward in the city. Durkin said he served on an ad hoc open spaces committee that JoAnne Twomey created when she was mayor. That ad hoc committee, Durkin said, helped to draft an open spaces plan, which the council eventually adopted.

Durkin said it’s possible the downtown task force could expedite changes to policy and zoning, but said the Downtown Development Commission also exists to serve functions as requested by the mayor and council, and could fashion the appropriate recommendations if directed to do so.

Durkin said he is taking a “wait-and-see” approach to the mayor’s news task force.

“It is the prerogative of the mayor to create any ad hoc committee and if that task force creates another subcommittee, then it is still within his duty to do so. When it involves councilors, it does make it interesting. I have zero idea where it is heading.”

Durkin said he hopes the purpose and function of the mayor’s task force will become clearer in the near future.

“We all want Biddeford to be a better place and downtown to be thriving and bring an economy in, and reduce crime, bring in tourists and have clean streets,” Durkin said. “We’re all in the same boat, we all got to work together. We just need to clarify all our positions and roles of what we got to do. Maybe this task force is trying to lead through on a smaller scale, with those who are in command, in power so to speak, to come up with projects they want to get done.”

Casavant said downtown is changing fast and he hopes the downtown task force will be able to help the city, and its various downtown organizations, better facilitate the transition.

“For many years, Biddeford downtown was a destination point,” Casavant said.

“We’re getting to that point again.”

Biddeford's DDC on chopping block

By Grant McPherson

Staff Writer

Bidd-Saco Courier May 18, 2017

BIDDEFORD – The future of Biddeford's Downtown Development Commission remains unclear ahead of a special council meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18, the first of two public hearings on the city budget that will take place. Part of the budget being discussed is funding for a new Downtown Improvement District, a proposal the council asked City Manager Jim Bennett to develop. The district would collect additional taxes from downtown property owners to implement projects that go above and beyond the city's typical amenities.

Bill Durkin, chairman of the Downtown Development Commission, said he hopes the commission will still exist but that it's not up to members. The commission's mission is to encourage the growth of new and existing commercial firms downtown and consult on matters related to parking, traffic circulation, historic districts, land use, public utilities, landscape and streetscape.

Durkin submitted a budget for \$8,200 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year but Bennett entered their budget in for zero dollars. Durkin said ideally the Downtown Development Commission would operate as a go between for downtown business owners and city officials, but lately hasn't felt much support from the city manager or council.

The Downtown Development Commission, in operation since 1995, has worked on recent projects such as a website for the downtown but never received direction from the city on it. It is also working to develop WiFi hot spots downtown. Durkin isn't concerned, however, about the future of downtown Biddeford. He said private investors such as Doug Sanford would continue current projects in the buildings they own. "People might see a change in how the public is involved in city hall activities with the DDC gone," he said.

As a municipal organization the Downtown Development Commission has close ties with other departments within the city, including the public works and economic development departments. Durkin isn't sure how a private organization such as the Downtown Improvement District would manage those kinds of relationships. The Downtown Development Commission is prohibited from raising funds like Heart of Biddeford can or the Downtown Improvement District would be able to. Durkin said he would like the Downtown Development Commission to keep running even if it wasn't allocated a budget for next year, although he's not sure what that would look like.

"For a while there was no one picking up trash downtown. So we ended up finding someone to go around and pick things up and funded it on the side. For years the city council hasn't been paying attention to downtown," Durkin said.

Ultimately Durkin felt he and the commission had been around long enough and didn't feel the need to fight for its continuation. Durkin said city councilors in various administrations have tried to disband the Downtown Development Commission during the past 20 years and said he doesn't think city officials have ever grasped the unique position the commission has been in as an arm of municipal government. Durkin wonders how a nonprofit will be able to fill the same roll or bring new insight to old problems.

"The same issues from 22 years ago are still being talked about. Just in the past few years or so the city is awakening to the fact that there really is something downtown and it needs attention," Durkin said.

The Downtown Development Commission has two options, to redefine its mission or dissolve. Bennett said in the past about \$6,000 of the Downtown Development Commission's \$8,200 budget has been used for cleaning the downtown area. Those efforts will be overseen by the Downtown Improvement District going forward. The commission also planted flowers downtown every spring for about \$2,000. Currently \$45,511 worth of flowers, plants and evergreens are scheduled to be planted before Memorial Day. Fiscal year 2018 has \$27,500 budgeted on flowers in the proposed downtown district.

In the future, Bennett sees the Downtown Development Commission acting as a policy recommendation board, advising on topics such as downtown signs and gateway design. The city, however, already has an official policy committee in place.

Bennett said no community will ever have all the money it needs for projects, and atmospheric changes rarely find funding. The Downtown Development Commission has to compete for resources just like any

other project. A decision has to be made between picking up trash and planting flowers or fixing roads and sewers.

Bennett said he did not consult the Downtown Development Commission when mapping out the city budget for the coming fiscal year.

If approved, the Downtown Improvement District will operate independently from city oversight, submitting requests for use of collected funds. This differs from the Heart of Biddeford, Bennett said, which has received a budget of between \$20,000 and \$30,000 the past two years and would have difficulty operating without the city's involvement. The city will hold onto the money the Downtown Improvement District raises until the board of directors chooses what to do with it. Bennett expects that the additional tax would be \$49 cents per \$1,000 of value during the first transitional year.

As of now the Downtown Improvement District has \$88,000 earmarked in the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. The proposal will cover beautification projects, promotional marketing, downtown activities, cleaning and maintenance.

Bennett wants downtown property owners to be involved in the discussion and will help with the formation of the nonprofit and different bylaws. He believes it has proven successful in the past and will not be a big risk.

"Let us show you how it can work before you demand a fix. The best way to do that is to spend the money. Then you can figure out how much it would help your business and what you want to contribute."

Delilah Poupore, executive director at the Heart of Biddeford, said there could be potential to increase the scale of downtown projects. Heart of Biddeford, a nonprofit, quasi municipal organization founded in 2004, works with the city on downtown projects. The board of directors has no official stance on whether or not a Downtown Improvement District would benefit the community, Poupore said. Because of the suggested increase in the mil rate the board did not want to speak on behalf of property owners in downtown Biddeford. However, Poupore said if property owners want to seriously consider the proposal, HOB is happy to provide examples of how organizations like this have succeeded in the past.

"There's an opportunity for more comprehensive programs, because of the collective impact of all of the property owners," Poupore said.

She also noted that there are still many questions to answer such as how the Downtown Improvement District would be formed, who would comprise the board of directors and how the voting system would operate. In Portland downtown businesses vote based on how much they are taxed, with those paying more receiving more weight. She stressed the importance of making sure that property owners felt it was the right time before action was taken.

Contact Staff Writer Grant McPherson at news@thecourier.com

Gateways needed

By Grant McPherson
Staff Writer

Bidd-Saco Courier June 1, 2017

BIDDEFORD The Downtown Task Force Committee met last week at city hall to discuss potential gateway markers for downtown Biddeford. Gateways along the streets would provide a sense of neighborhood identity for residents and help visitors navigate the city more easily, according to committee members. The exact plans for the gateways have not yet been decided, however.

Bruce Benway, chairman of the committee and former Biddeford city manager, will bring a proposal before the city council once a consensus is reached among committee members.

"The committee has no authority beyond making recommendations to city council," Benway said.

There are already signs in place marking the downtown in Biddeford. Bill Durkin, chairman of the Downtown Development Commission, said more than 10 years ago its members put signs at the bottom of Main Street across from Mechanics Park, Route 1 coming from Saco, the corner of Main and Elm streets and the corner of Alfred and Elm streets. Durkin estimates the group spent between \$4,000 and \$5,000 on installation and refurbishment.

"It was part of the DDC's mission to do that," Durkin said. "Since then we've had no communication from the chairman (of the Downtown Task Force Committee)."

A map created by Economic Development Coordinator Brad Favreau proposed gateways in several locations where the DDC placed signs, as well as in new locations that include South and Elm streets, Alfred and Birch, Hill and Pool and Clifford and Pool. Members of the committee, however, did not reach a consensus at the May 25 meeting on where gateways belong nor the boundary of the downtown. The committee would like to designate and place signs for the neighborhoods surrounding downtown in order to create a sense of identity for Biddeford residents, but first they need to decide which areas to include.

Benway said he feels it may be time for a new theme to the signs in downtown Biddeford. This is the committee's first serious attempt at identifying potential gateways and Benway said he expects the concept to go through a number of iterations before it is brought before the city council.

The existing signs read, "A proud city rising where the water falls," and the image of a waterfall. It's also the name of the anthem of the city of Biddeford, according to Biddefordmaine.org.

"We are trying to provide a vision, at least short term, three to five years, for the downtown area so that we can cast whatever future recommendations we would make to the council within the context of that vision," Benway said. "We want to have a verbalized vision so we can make it a talking point."

Biddeford Director of Economic and Community Development Daniel Stevenson said he feels there are many different definitions for the borders of downtown.

Delilah Poupore, executive director of Heart of Biddeford, said constructing a commonly accepted definition of downtown Biddeford is on the agenda for the committee. Deciding which businesses are included in that definition will be necessary in light of the proposed Downtown Improvement District, which would eventually raise funds for beautification projects in the downtown through an increase in taxes for downtown property owners.

Julian Schlaver, owner at Suger and Angel Rox, hopes a stronger sense of where the downtown lies will make the neighborhoods surrounding it more attractive to young people.

“Part of this exercise,” Schlaver said, “is to try and create an area in which activity is going to flourish, support residents and encourage people to live around the downtown.”

Contact Staff Writer Grant McPherson at news@inthecourier.com