



REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN STAYTON

Friends of Old Town Stayton, Inc.

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May 30, 2020

TO: Stayton Budget Committee 2020-21

FROM: RDS Board of Directors

RE: Comments made by Mr. Campbell in the Budget Committee Meeting on 5/12/2020

Members of the Budget Committee:

We were unable to respond to the comments made by Mr. Campbell about RDS in the Budget Committee Meeting on May 12, 2020, thus we would like to take this opportunity to present our view.

A proposed Personal Services Contract was presented to RDS by the city in July 2019. The RDS counter proposal was presented to Mr. Campbell on 11/15/19, which indicated the scope of services we felt were commensurate with a Main Street program of our size. In spite of regular meetings between Mr. Campbell and the RDS Liaison Team and inquiries by them, no further discussion about the city contract was forthcoming. We regret that the parties have not been able to reach an agreement to date. We would like to focus on where we can go in future negotiations.

RDS does promote downtown businesses. Our express mission is to support and help the downtown core of Stayton. One of the Main Street Committees is Economic Vitality. RDS has an Economic Vitality committee made up of downtown business/property owners.

RDS is willing to work on a business retention and expansion program. Such a program is vital for downtown, especially given the current crisis. We need to work together to get through this. The pilot program we were chosen for by Oregon Main Street is now scheduled for June-September, and as the subject of the pilot we and the merchants will benefit from continued development of skills

RDS has made great strides to get downtown business owners involved in RDS. Currently, half of our board members are downtown building or business owners. Our Economic Vitality Committee Includes building and business owners as well. We continue to encourage other building owners or businesses to get involved.

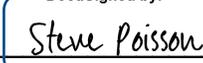
We have demonstrated our ability to manage funds in both the Marion County Economic Grant for \$5000 in 2018 and the \$200,000 Main Street Facade Grant that is ongoing. We are the pass-thru for that grant and the accountable body for the funds, passed from the State of Oregon to the building owners.

The RDS President's letter to the City Budget Committee presented on 5/11/2020 stated: "I would like to see a contract, in which RDS provides specific services and receives funds upon approval and is required to report on the completion of contract elements, on an agreed-upon schedule. Due to not reaching an agreement acceptable to both parties in 2019-20, we would need to discuss how to negotiate the terms of such an agreement once the Budget Committee has allocated a financial amount." We are in agreement with Mr. Campbell about the need for a contract when funds are allocated by the City.

Main Street organizations are most productive when they have the support of as many stakeholders as possible. When negative comments are made about us in a public forum it undermines the level of success we might have.

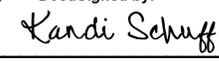
Our mission is to support and help the downtown core of Stayton. We have encouraged a spirit of cooperation between RDS and the City and look forward to a new chapter free from unnecessary barriers to cooperation. Let's work together and come out better equipped to handle the challenges of the future.

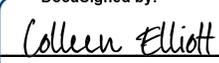
Sincerely,

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Steve Poisson, President

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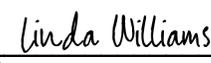
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Aaron Fichtl, Vice President

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Kandi Schuff, Secretary pro tem

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Colleen Elliott, Treasurer

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John Mohney, Design Chair

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Linda Williams, Director