

**Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2023**

In attendance is Kurk K. Sara H., Tom L., Joann S., Kayla J., and Mayor Wayne, Christina A.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by Tom.

Benches: Kurk talked to Harry W. about concrete pads for the benches. Also probably need to bolt them down in at least one place to prevent tipping and chipping of the paint. In spring (when we get there) Mike and some employees will help get the benches to the locations.

May move the bench by the monument to by the Depot building.

Walking tour: Can we add signs where buildings once were? Do we want to add to the tour? Would need to reprint. May not get them for free anymore.

Grant: Once we receive it we can then order the big chair.

Murals: Matt Mages has talked with a muralist. If there are more than a couple murals, we may get a discount. The Serviceman's Club is also looking at a mural in Veteran's Park.

Metal Sculpture contest: Need categories, also size limitations, prizes, how they are judged.

Maybe new signs/ plaques on the buildings.

Joann did send us the info from insights. We aren't sure that it's accurate.

Next meeting February 21, 2023

## **Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023**

In attendance was Kurk K., Kayla J., Christina A., Joann S., and Mayor Wayne.

Joann mentioned doing all the buildings in the same format from now on for the website and the brochure. Joann recommended the list type vs the narrative.

We were confused if we were supposed to start research on buildings or if Tom was doing the research. We also weren't sure where some of the buildings were. We decided to table the decisions until Tom and Sara are back.

The brochure is also full. The only way to add will just be building names and QR codes with no descriptions.

Also do we need to dress up the descriptions on the buildings.

Benches will be pushed back until winter gives up which doesn't look like it's happening soon.

Metal Art sculpture contest: Kurk will look at other similar contests.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 21, 2023, at 11:00

# Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes

## March 21, 2023

The March meeting was called to order by President Tom Larson at 11AM with the following members/guests present Tom Larson, Kurk Kramer, Joann Schmidt, Sara Hornbrook, Christine Andres, Mayor Wayne Pelzel. In the absence of secretary Kayla Jacobsen, Tom Larson kept the minutes.

There was no secretary's report from the February 21, 2023, meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1) Sleepy Eye Downtown Walking Tour: After much discussion, it was decided to not add any new building histories to the present walking tour pamphlet at this time as we have many pamphlets to get rid of. Kurk K and Christine A will publicize the walking tour to a greater degree this summer and the following list of buildings will be researched, and Joann can at least add them to the web site for now:

Pizza Haven (East Main) - Tom Larson

Ouren's Shoe Store (101 East Main)

Schultz's Cafe (West Main) - Christine Andres

Family Cafe (West Main)

Dr. Hutchins bldg (West Main)

1st Security Agency (1" Ave No)

Beech Electric (East Main)

Schweiss Meats (1" Ave So) Joann Schmidt

Mike Schmid stated he would work on getting the information for the above buildings.

Christine mentioned that the Young Professionals group is interested in the walking tour but would appreciate a personal guide to take them on it.

2) Sleepy Eye Downtown Benches project: Kurk K reported that he's been in touch with Harry Wurtzberger and as soon as the weather cooperates, they will check out the need for concrete pads for several the & benches at the sites and proceed.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1) 2023 Metal Sculptor Project: Kurk K passed out a work sheet for the contest and the committee discussed the various parameters with the following present decisions made: a) \$1000 in cash prizes (from Sleepy Eye Regional Foundation) with 1<sup>st</sup> \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$300 and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$200.

b) The theme for the created pieces of metal art may include MN/Sleepy Eye related historical or modern.

c) Kurk K will get the contest entry forms out by 4/6/23 with a submission of entries by 5/1/23; deadline for completion of art work 8/6 thru 8/11/23 with judging prior to Friday, August 18th (Sleepy Eye Summerfest).

d) Metal art entries to be on display at Veteran's Park evening of Friday, August 18th,

e) Potential judges include: 1) rep from Kibble Imp, 2) rep from Miller/Sellner Imp, 3) rep from Haala Ind, 4) Matt Schroepfer and 5) David Hoffmann;

A finalized (official) contest rules sheet will be provided at the next meeting.

2) Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Paint The Town Grant Program guidelines and procedures sheet was distributed by Kurk K. The group agreed it is a good grant to consider in the future, especially if we plan a large mural (Veteran's Park/ Matt Mages building). The deadline is 4/17/23, the item was tabled for this year.

3) Christine A introduced the group to a project called Low Cost Pop-Up Shops Create

Big Value in Muskegon, Michigan. Individual, small, medium, and large inexpensive wooden structures were built in the deserted downtown commercial area and rented to potential small businesses during the summer and fall. It was food-for-thought as the committee discussed how a similar project could be implemented in Sleepy Eye.

Kurk would like to see the Pizza Haven buildings could be utilized as some such space for individual vendors year-round.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at 11AM in the Council Chambers.

# Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes

## May 16, 2023

In attendance Tom, Mike, Joann, Wayne, Kurk, Sara

Kurk gave an update on the Downtown Walking Tour regarding the lot across the alley north of Veteran's Park. The SMIF grant money that is left needs to be used up and will be used for a giant Adirondack chair which will be another attraction for visitors and the community.

There was discussion on the location of the benches downtown:

- 1 at city hall,
- 1 at city hall parking lot area,
- 1 at Wooldrik Park,
- 2 at Veteran's Park,
- 1 on the corner of Highways 4 & 14 in the Pocket Park,
- 1 by the museum,
- 1 at the library.

Sculptures: Entry deadline is still open. Have 3 entries submitted and we're waiting for one more for sure. Would like to see a few more submitted.

Adjourned at 12:27pm

Next meeting June 20, 2023

**Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2023**

In attendance Tom, Joann, Wayne, Kurk, Sara, Christina, and Kayla

Kurk got permission to paint the old cleaners building for a mural.

We have about \$1,600.00 left in the SMIF grant for window information posters, lamination, and web presence.

We have \$6,900.00 left in the Blandin grant for paint and other stuff.

Sculptures: Have 4 entries. Wait to decide where to place them when we see how big they are.

Joann updated our website to include the benches and the chair.

Adjourned at 12:06

Next meeting TODAY (July 18) at 11:30

## **Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023**

In attendance were Tom, Mike, Wayne, Kurk, Kayla, Sara, Joann, and Christina

Wayne has been continuing to try to get a response from the railroad about painting the bridge.

Sculpture contest. We have 4 entries. SERF may kick in \$100 for the fourth contestant. Sculptures are supposed to be in by the 11th of August. We will meet in August to do the judging.

Sara would like us to look for a grant next spring to help redo the monument base area.

Kurk handed out sheets with the remainder amounts of the grants. We may use some of the remainder for more benches.

We will meet on August 15, 2023.

**Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**August 15, 2023**

In attendance Sara, Kurk, Mike, Wayne, Kayla, Joann

Guest Dave Forster

Minutes were passed out and approved.

Joann is still working on the building bios on the website.

There is \$300 left in the SMIF grant and about \$6,000 in the Blandon.

Kurk has looked at the cost for some more concrete garbage cans. They are about \$900 each.

Mike motioned to buy 4 trash cans with the Blandon grant.

Sara motioned to buy another bench. Mike second the motion.

There is interest in purchasing the old cleaners building so painting will be put on hold for now.

Three of the sculpture contestants backed out and we only have one sculpture.

Wayne did get a response from the railroad, and they said they would check into it and get back to him.

Kurk found an artist that does murals. He will talk to Matt Mages and see if he would be interested in also doing one at the same time and maybe doing it together.

Kurk passed out a sheet on the possibility of Downtown Alive program. He also passed out a brochure on an Art/Sculpture Park.

Sara made a motion that Joann will be the new secretary.

Meeting September 19 at noon.

# Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes

## September 19, 2023

**In attendance:** Kurk, Wayne, Kayla, Joann, Tom, Mike; Absent: Sara, Christina

Guest: Dave Forster

**Minutes:** Approved as presented.

**Marketing (Website/Brochure/Rack Card/Facebook):**

Joann asked in what order the downtown businesses should be listed in on the website. In numerical order or by location along the north or south of Main Street. It was decided to go along the blocks as someone would walk the street as in the walking tour.

**Grant Update:**

**SMIF:** Kurk is working on the final report on the SMIF grant. \$300 left, we may try to use it for a trash receptacle for Veterans Park. The question is who will pay for the remainder of the cost of the receptacle.

**Blandon:** The grant still has \$6,000.00. Kurk will contact Blandon to see if we can use it for an item other than what was on the request. Could we use it to buy the trash receptacle along with the \$300 from SMIF?

**Paint Building:**

Due to the potential purchase of the "Cleaners" building, which the outbuilding is a part of it, we will put a hold on painting the building.

**Sculpture Update:**

Should we do it again next year? The group said yes. We need to reach out to the local schools about the contest. Also, the question was, did we give them too long a time between the announcement of the contest and the time to present the art? Most members stated it seemed like a good plenty of time to give contestants to get the art done.

**Railroad Update:** no contact from the railroad.

**Mural(s):**

Kurk contacted Lili Lennox, who creates murals on metal panels. See the email and packet Kurk handed out. Lili is interested and sent information on a possible grant that would help pay for her mural.

Wayne mentioned that one of his children lives in Rock Rapids WI and the community has murals throughout the community. Wayne will contact Rock Rapids WI to get information on their murals.

**Chief Sleepy Eye Monument landscaping:**

Kurk sent the layout that Sara gave us last month to Michael Sprenger to see what he might come up with. It would be next year before he would be able to do anything with the monument.

**Floor:** Nothing from the floor.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:30pm.

**Next Meeting:** October 17 at 12:00pm, in the Council Chamber

# Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Minutes

## October 17, 2023

**Attendance: Present:** Kurk, Wayne, Kayla, Joann, Mike, Sara, Christina; **Absent:** Tom

**Guest:** None

**Minutes:** Approved as presented. M: Mike/S: Joann

**Marketing:** (Website/Brochure/Rack Card/Facebook):

Joann: Continuing to work on the website. The committee talked about adding QR code pages to the information that is already available on the tour buildings. Then as more webpages are added the QR pages would go up on the building (with owner permission).

**Grant Update:**

**SMIF:** Kurk: See financial report below. Kurk stated that the remaining \$319.93 can be spent on getting the QR code pages up on the tour buildings.

**Blandon:** Kurk: See financial report below. He will wait until spring to order the trash cans and benches for next year, that way we don't have to figure out where to store them.

**Paint the Cleaners Building:** On hold due to the potential purchase of the "Cleaners" building, which the outbuilding is a part of.

**Railroad Update:** Wayne: No comments from RR as of this meeting

**Chief Sleepy Eye Monument landscaping:**

Kurk: Michael has not gotten back to Kurk.

**Mural(s):**

Wayne: Update on contact Rock Rapids IA to get information on their murals.

Mural Society is a group that does the murals Rock Rapids IA. All are done with private donations, see <https://rockrapids.com/more-info/city-of-murals/>

**Other:**

Kurk: The Metal Contest winners' art has been installed in the northwest corner of Veterans Park.

(I (Joann) drove by VP early morning and the light from the Huey was shining off the art and it looked very shiny; it really stood out. 👍)

**Floor:** Nothing from the floor.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:30pm.

**Next Meeting:** November 21 at 12:00pm, in the Council Chamber

**Downtown Revitalization Committee  
2022 - SMIF and Blandin Grants Worksheet**

<u>NAME OF GRANT</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>VENDOR NAME &amp; ITEM</u>	<u>GRANT MONEY SPENT</u>	<u>REMAINING AMOUNT</u>
<b>SMIF Small Town Grant</b>	\$10,000.00	Belson Outdoors - (8) 6' Steel Benches	\$8,400.07	<b>\$1,599.93</b>
		Creative Minds - Brochures & Website	\$1,280.00	<b>\$319.93</b>
<b>10/2/2023 - I finished the Final Report for the SMIF Small Town's Grant and submitted it along with numerous pics of the project.</b>				
<b>Blandin Rural Leadership Grant</b>	\$10,000.00	Menards - (3) Trough Planters	\$97.06	\$9,902.94
		SE Ace Hardware - Bolts & Nuts for Planters	\$7.20	\$9,895.74
		Runnings - (2) Box Planters	\$159.48	\$9,736.26
		SE Ace Hardware - Plants & Potting Soil	\$326.53	\$9,409.73
		SE Ace Hardware - Plants & Potting Soil	\$31.94	\$9,377.79
		SE Ace Hardware - Plants	\$37.91	\$9,339.88
		Menards - Planters, Plants, Decorations	\$1,086.10	\$8,253.78
		Menards - Plants, Preen, RoundUp, Soil	\$229.98	\$8,023.80
		Hutchinson High School - Adirondack Chair	\$786.79	\$7,237.01
		Joann Schmidt - Ace Hardware (hose/nozzle)	\$78.36	\$7,158.65
		Ace Hardware - Hose & Plant Food	\$111.97	\$7,046.68
		Ace Hardware - Waterproof Chair Supplies	\$49.95	\$6,996.73
		Town's Edge - Steps for Adirondack Chair	\$145.00	<b>\$6,851.73</b>

# Sleepy Eye Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting Agenda

## November 21, 2023

**Attendance: Present:** Tom, Kurk, Wayne, Kayla, Joann, Sara; **Absent:** Mike, Christina

**Guest:** David Forster

**Minutes:** Approved – M: Sara/S: Kayla

**Marketing:** (Website/Brochure/Rack Card/Facebook):

Joann showed the new window pages for the buildings on the Downtown Tour. The committee agreed that this would be a good update to the current sheets. The sheets are laminated. We will get the new sheets done and get them distributed to the buildings.

**Grant Update:**

**SMIF:** Kurk: Almost all the money is used, turns out there is \$.93 left.

**Blandon:** Kurk: There have been requests to have an Adirondack chair built for out at Sportsman's Park and one for Allison Park. Kurk doesn't know exactly when the money needs to be used. He is going to wait until Blandon contacts him. We currently have \$6,851.73 left of this grant.

**Mural(s):** Kurk: Michael Wiechmann is an artist in New Ulm that Kurk has talked to about painting the wall on the small building. There are grants for such projects.

**Cleaners Building:** This is on hold.

**Railroad Update:** Wayne: We will take this off the agenda, due to lack of response by the Railroad.

**Chief Sleepy Eye Monument landscaping:** On hold until spring.

**Other:** Kurk presented the idea of a program called Sleepy Eye Downtown Alive. Some ideas of the program are:

- > Street level flowerpots that businesses would adopt to take care of.
  - > Spring/Summer flowers and Evergreen decorations for winter.
- > Donations from community that would go to beautify the downtown area.
  - > More benches
  - > Murals

See [downtownredwing.org](http://downtownredwing.org) and [wabashamainstreet.org](http://wabashamainstreet.org) for more information.

**Floor:** Wayne mentioned the idea of getting some of the big white bails a few places around town to have people decorate. The committee will discuss this more at a future meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:35pm.

No meeting in December

**Next Meeting:** January 16 at 12:00pm, in the Council Chamber