

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Carole Smith <carole@smithkittle.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Mainstreet Organization

**Categories:** Follow-up

Honorable City Council,

Sorry to write to you again. I notice the award of the Parking District funds may be awarded to the new Mainstreet Organization downtown.

I want you all to know, this organization has not made any attempt to communicate with the business and property owners downtown. The board has not committed any of their own funds to communication with downtown business/property owners. They were created in secret and they have refused to name their board of directors. This board discriminates against the majority of downtown and property/business owners downtown by not allowing them on their board.

Patricia at 1895 Cider Shop, a board member of the Mainstreet Organization, told me the present board "Did not ask any "old people" downtown to join the board". This is clear discrimination.

The organization is a 503.C.3 Charitable Organization instead of a 501.C.6 like other downtown organizations. A charitable organization is not the correct structure for a downtown organization.

The Mainstreet Organization elected to have "no members". This means they do not represent anyone but themselves. When new board members are elected they can only be elected by the present board member, not the downtown community. They DO NOT REPRESENT the downtown community.

The Mainstreet program has existed now for over a year and never once have they communicated with the downtown business and property owners. They do not communicate when their board meetings are, they do not have a website, they do not email us, they do not represent us and they have had over a year to do so. This show they have no intention of working with us, or listen to us. If they are unwilling to use their own funds to create this organization then they don't have much invested and you should not fund them until they show they are personally financially committed to the downtown community.

Please do not award this organization the Parking District funds. We desperately need a downtown organization that represents us, formed by us, supporting programs and projects we want and run by us. This is NOT that organization. They do not deserve funding until they show they stop discriminating against us, start representing us, are willing to work with us, and LISTEN to what we want done downtown. Until then, no funds.

Thank you,

Carole