

Downtown Beloit Association moves forward with quest for new executive director

Will O'Brien | Posted: Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:00 am

The Downtown Beloit Association is moving forward with its quest to hire a new executive director.

The organization has stopped accepting applications for the job — the deadline was March 16 — and has begun its review process. The Association attracted a large pool of talented candidates from both near and far, but an exact hiring timeline has not been set, said Andrew Janke, the city's chief economic development official.

The Downtown Beloit executive director position has been vacant since mid-February, when former director Kathleen Braatz resigned. Braatz served in that role for eight years. The executive director is responsible for managing the city's downtown revitalization program in addition to other duties. The director also would promote downtown events such as the Farmers Market and Street Dance, and work with downtown business recruitment and retention.

In anticipation of Braatz's departure, Downtown Beloit Association board members and employees readied a casting call. The Association advertised the job opening through a number of outlets, said Shauna El-Amin, a business retention and expansion specialist at the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation.

The response was great, she said.

"There's a broad range of experiences and skill sets," Janke said.

He and others have been assigned to a selection committee that will parse through the applications, conduct interviews and ultimately make a hire. The other selection committee members are Jason Braun, chairman of the DBA board of directors; Joe Simpson, a human resources analyst with the city; Tim McKearn, of Beloit College; Christine Schlichting, of Neighborhood Housing Services; and John Nicholas, of Beloit College.

Each member will have one vote in making the director selection, Janke said.

At present, Downtown Beloit Association staff are organizing application materials, and the selection committee soon will be able to move ahead with the next steps, he said, stating that updates on the process may be available in several weeks.

A job description posted online lists a salary of \$48,000 to \$56,000, depending on experience. Sought after qualifications include a bachelors degree, three to five years experience in a related field

— planning, marketing, community or economic development.

“Applicants must be energetic, outgoing and able to demonstrate initiative and self-motivation,” the advertisement says.

