

## **Ironworks Building to join Business District**

**By Shaun Zinck [szinck@beloitdailynews.com](mailto:szinck@beloitdailynews.com) | Posted: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 4:00 pm**

The Ironworks Building will be added to the Business Improvement District (BID) next year.

Shauna El-Amin, director of the Downtown Beloit Association, gave a presentation on the DBA's budget for next year during the Beloit City Council meeting Monday.

The association is anticipating an net income of about \$147,128. Expenses will total about \$250,950, while income will reach \$398,078.

El-Amin said the net income allows the association to cover costs in the event income were ever to decrease one year, or rainy weather canceled a summer event.

She added staff is working on developing a written policy on how much reserve funds the association should have, and what they can do with those reserve funds.

When the Business Improvement District map was drawn in 1998 the Ironworks Building was left out, El-Amin said. A total of six parcels will be added to the BID.

“Talking to the folks at Hendricks (Commercial Properties), they wanted the Ironworks to be added because they have so many different businesses going in there, they wanted to be able to get those benefits,” El-Amin said.

She added some of the benefits include applying for grants for facade renovations, assistance with social media and design work done with the state.

Downtown businesses pay \$3.88 per \$1,000 of assessed value to the DBA as part of their membership. No business pays more than \$3,000. The DBA estimates it will receive about \$116,981 for the BID assessment, which is about \$4,780 less than last year.

In 2015, the Ironworks parcels will add about \$6,440, El-Amin said.

Councilor Sheila DeForest asked about prohibiting dogs at the farmer's market in the future. A few councilors added they have gotten emails and calls from residents wanting dogs banned from the market.

El-Amin said the DBA has surveyed a lot of people both for and against a ban. She added the Janesville Farmer's Market eliminated dogs from their farmer's market, and now it isn't as well attended.

“We have over 4,500 people attended every single Saturday,” she said. “It was really hard for us to weigh that decision, but we decided not to install that policy.”

Councilor Dave Luebke said he believed allowing dogs at the market creates a liability for the city and the DBA. El-Amin added the DBA will continue to survey residents at the beginning of every season to get a feel for what they would like to see at the farmer's market including if they prefer dogs.

El-Amin added this year the farmer's market added the ability for residents to purchase foods at the farmer's market using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The DBA decided to take on the processing fees, and bought a machine that accepted SNAP cards.

“We sold over \$3,000 in SNAP,” she said. “We'll continue to do it.”