

More than 150 people attended the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 downtown summit meeting held at the Town Centre. The results of the summit lead to a May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Brandon City Council decision to establish a task force addressing the need for an organization that would guide development and create new opportunities for downtown Brandon. This task force was to review the outcomes of the spring 2007 Downtown Summit and make recommendations to council on establishing a new organization, an organization with the sole purpose of achieving meaningful and recognizable success for the downtown.

Once formally organized the Downtown Task Force gathered information, reviewed the summit recommendations and in turn made recommendations to Brandon City Council. The primary recommendation sought the creation of a board to develop a strategy focused on the priorities as determined at the Downtown Summit. The task force further proposed that council grant a mandate to this board allowing the creation of a new development corporation for downtown, the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation.

Renaissance Brandon, as the downtown development corporation has become known, was granted authority from the City of Brandon to conduct activities related to downtown business development such as the ownership of property, granting of loans, establishment of incentive programs and retention of proceeds from investments. Further, the organization is to create unique partnerships between the public and private sectors that bring renewal and energy to downtown. The Renaissance District was defined as 6<sup>th</sup> Street westward to 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Pacific Avenue southward to Lorne Avenue an area containing a cornucopia of buildings from newly built and renovated to those nearing the point of no return. The Renaissance District is the heart of the city, a mix of light industrial, retail, service centres and both low and high income residential.

The City of Brandon in support of the organization has for 2008 allocated Renaissance Brandon \$250,000, a 6 month half time secondment of an Economic Development Office employee and has implemented a TIFF program to incent the renovation of historic buildings in the Renaissance District.

The Board of Directors is comprised of Mayor Dave Burgess, Councillor Vince Barletta, Councillor Doug Paterson and seven (7) citizens-at-large directors who were appointed by City Council. Council having advertised the board position openings received a high level of interest resulting in the following citizens-at-large appointments:

John Zeke – Retailer	Jeanne Millis – Chartered Accountant
Wayne McLeod – Credit Union CEO	Marlow Kirton – Property Developer
Rod Lindenburt – General Contractor	Corey Roberts – Restaurateur
Dianne Hastings Fotheringham - Retailer	