2013 Executive Board

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2013 Eastern Iowa Chapter
International Facility Management Association

Monthly Meeting Date: March 12, 2013
Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall (at their new location)
101 First Street, SE, Cedar Rapids, IA
Agenda:
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Registration and Networking
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Tour of City Hall and learn about what they’ve been through since the Flood of 2008.
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner at Jerseys Downtown,
200 1st Avenue, NE, Cedar Rapids
See Dinner Menu and description of Jersey’s Downtown location and history in separate attachments.
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Drawing
Cost: Cash/Check – Members $25; Non-members $35.00
Credit card – Members $27; Non-members $37.00
Go to http://ei-ifma.eventbrite.com to register if you want to pay by credit card
RSVP to Chapter Administrator Della McGrath
at dellamcgrath@qwestoffice.net or 319/358-8448
by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2013.

Save the Date! Friday, April 26, 2013
Spring Joint Seminar Eastern Iowa Chapter IFMA with Central Iowa Chapter IFMA Group

The Spring Joint (full day) Seminar for Central Iowa IFMA and Eastern Iowa Chapter IFMA will be on Friday, April 26, in Ames, Iowa, at Iowa State University with a tentative timeframe of 9 AM – 4PM. Presentation topics will include a focus on ISU’s sustainability efforts and there will be tours of a few of Iowa State University’s newer buildings that incorporated these practices/tactics. Registration deadline: April 18, 2013. More information to follow; however, please let Chapter Administrator Della McGrath know if you do plan to attend so that we can get a guesstimate on how many are planning on attending from Eastern Iowa Chapter.

Directions to: City Hall, City of Cedar Rapids. Located near the intersection of 1st Avenue, NE and 1st Street, NE on the East side of the Cedar River. Coming from the south on I-380: Take the 1st Avenue W exit off I-380 and go east across the Cedar River. Location is the first intersection on the East side of the Iowa River. Coming from the north on I-380: Take the 1st Street, NE, exit and go one block to the intersection of 1st Street, NE, and 1st Avenue W. Jersey’s Downtown restaurant, where we will have dinner following the tour/presentation, will be one block east of that intersection.
Parking: From 5:00-5:45 p.m., you will have access to free parking in the United Fire parking ramp across 1st Street from City Hall. Or you may wish to park in the US Bank parking lot at the intersection of 1st Ave. & 2nd Street, 1 block from Jerseys Downtown. Or along the street.

Remember Carpooling:
Use as much as you can & let Della McGrath know if you would like to do so; she can make others in your area aware.
Another part of the restored Roosevelt building came back to life the first weekend of January 2012 in downtown Cedar Rapids. Jerseys Downtown, a sports-themed bar and restaurant, is on the ground floor of the building at 200 First Ave. NE. It’s the space that housed the C.R. Chop House before it was damaged in the June 2008 flood.

The upper floors of the Roosevelt building, a historic downtown hotel dating to the 1920s, were reopened as apartments in October 2011 after a full renovation by Sherman & Associates, the new owner. The ground floor restaurant spaces had remained vacant. Managing partner Mark Pendergast said the owners of Jerseys negotiated on the space for about one year, then began renovations in September 2011. Pendergast said the space was appealing because it is close to the new downtown events center expected to open in the fall of 2012 and far enough from a jointly owned business, Jersey’s Pub N Grub at 5761 C St. SW, that it wouldn’t siphon away existing clientele.

The renovated Roosevelt Hotel space has large windows overlooking First Avenue, a more upscale interior than its sister business and more traditional dinner menu selections. The business is owned by five local partners and overseen by managing partners Mark Pendergast and Nick Burgess. Pendergast managed the renovations of the space. He said that the ground floor space took on about four feet of floodwater, less than many downtown buildings. It still created enough damage that everything had to be torn out except the upper portion of the wood cabinetry behind the bar.

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**About the New City Hall.**

The new City Hall at 101 First Street SE served as the former Federal Courthouse from 1931 to 2008. During that time the building also housed the main Cedar Rapids’ post office. The building was acquired by the City through land exchanged with the federal government for the newly-constructed Federal Courthouse at 111 Seventh Avenue SE. A conservation agreement was included in the transfer, requiring the City to renovate the building to historic standards monitored by the State Historical Preservation Office. The city has carefully preserved many historical features of the building, including the courtroom, five vaults, wood windows, banks of mailboxes and the terrazzo-floored hallways.

The Federal Building was the last addition to the May’s Island Historical District. This district comprises a complex of governmental facilities also including the old County Jail, the Linn County Courthouse and Veteran’s Memorial Coliseum. The Federal Building is unique in that it is sited on the riverbank instead of on the island and it is oriented toward First Street, away from the other buildings. This may be a reflection of its role as a federal, rather than a local, facility. Early plans called for the construction of an extension of May’s Island that would have linked the natural island to the east bank. Concerns that this would undermine the island’s integrity led to this plan being scrapped, with construction at the current site commencing in 1931.

The clustering of civic buildings around the river that bisects Cedar Rapids has been hailed as, “an innovative display of urban design,” that creates unity and highlights these monumental facilities. The complex has its roots in the City Beautiful movement. This turn-of-the-century movement was an attempt to bring to American cities some of the grand public spaces of older European urban centers. Its chief concerns were, “fostering an ordered and cohesive urban identity realized through the sequential arrangement of public spaces, unified groupings of buildings and the use of the Classical language of architecture.” Interest in the island as a potential hub for public life was formalized in a 1908 planning study that led to the City purchasing the island, extending it to the north, and reinforcing it with retaining walls and bridge links. The City Beautiful movement continued nationwide into the 1930’s, when the Federal Building was constructed. This late arrival to the Cedar Rapids governmental complex was also a product of the Depression, which is most evident in its New Deal murals in the former courtroom on the third floor.

Louis A. Simon, part of the Public Works Branch of the Procurement Division, was the architect for this Beaux-arts-style structure. It has served over time as both a Post Office and Federal Courthouse. Plans were laid in the 1990’s for the General Services administration to trade the building to the City of Cedar Rapids in exchange for nearby land on which to build a larger and more secure facility federal courts. When this project was funded in 2009, the exchange was made. The recently-flooded Federal Building had been stabilized by the GSA but did not immediately suggest a potential new use. In a little more than a year, plans were executed to allow the return of local government to downtown, in a completely updated facility. Keeping the building in use by City government and open to the public is very much in keeping with its role in the May’s Island Historic District.

**March Membership Anniversaries**

- Brett Hulme – Pigott, Inc. - 12 years
- Kent Odefey – The Mohawk Group(Bettendorf) – 3 years
- Terry Ruth – Russell Construction Company – 8 years

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