

City of St. Louis Downtown Development Authority

Minutes of Regular Meeting: November 9, 2023

Present: Eilts, Giles, Peterman, Lewis, Bailey, Saurman, Nannan also Hansen

Absent/Excused: Coty, Flegel

Meeting called to order by Peterman at 5:30 p.m.

Wyatt Minor, the new owner of Kubin's Furniture, has expressed an interest and willingness to serve on the St. Louis DDA Board.

Moved by Giles, supported by Bailey to bring Wyatt Minor's name to City Council for approval to have him join the DDA Board. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2023 were reviewed.

Moved by Bailey, supported by Giles to approve the minutes of July 27, 2023 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Financial statement presented through October 31, 2023.

Moved by Lewis, supported by Giles to approve the financials through October 31, 2023 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Quarterly Report from Hansen (attached) including Downtown Properties and Project Activities; Properties Available for Purchase/Rent; Streetscape Improvements/Maintenance and Signage

Moved by Giles, supported by Nannan to accept the Quarterly Report and place on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

DDA Façade Grant Program

MT Lott, Inc. – The Snack Guys – in process

Office of Human Services – recent application

Woody's Music, Gemini Capital Management, Subway – inquiries for the future

Moved by Giles, supported by Lewis to award the Office of Human Services a Façade Grant in the amount of \$575 as requested. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Planning for 2024 – Discussions were held on the following topics:

Available properties in the DDA area and what kind of businesses we might attract. Giles mentioned trying to think of some business that would be unique enough to be a destination.

Additional signage possibilities and locations in order to direct traffic into the downtown. Hansen, Giles and Saurman will create a map and ask board members for location suggestions.

Other kinds of signs that might be used in the downtown to designate individual businesses. Sandwich signs or something taller that could face perpendicular to North Mill Street in front of businesses. Hansen will work with the St. Louis High School Shark Tooth Woodshop for ideas. Fit Fuel Smoothies has put a temporary sign on top of the garbage can in front of their business and it's worked real well.

Possibility of a large, “entryway” sign where North Mill Street intersects with M-46. Hansen will e-mail the board photos of ideas.

Locations where we might locate picnic tables or create other outdoor seating spaces. Green space west of The Shop Graphics & Design; between Jim’s Barber Shop and St. Louis Optics; behind the Office of Human Services; on the City Hall corner, etc.

Ways to continue promoting our downtown. Hansen encouraged everyone to continue to use social media and interact with other downtown businesses. Also to promote the portion of the City website that lists all businesses within the City including their locations, descriptions, contact information, website and/or Facebook addresses, etc. Site is www.stlouismi.com/local

Eilts mentioned that the Downtown WIFI has been a popular program, but wondered if it would be possible to have access last longer than 20 minutes. Hansen will check on this.

Hansen mentioned considering to connect more with businesses outside of the DDA area as well as outside of the City limits. Lots of fine businesses are not in the DDA area but are “St. Louis businesses” nonetheless. Mentioned possibility of having an Open House and inviting those owners to it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE IS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
AT 12:15 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN ST. LOUIS CITY HALL**