

MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Attendance

Michael Carro, Chairman , Kevin Lehman, Jean Pierre N'Dione, Adam Cobb, Patti Sonnen, Robert Bender, *ex officio*, Casey Jones, *ex officio*, and Walker Wilson, Executive Director

Call to Order

- a. Chairman Carro called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
 - a. Comments for Chair- Chair Carro extended his thanks to board member Adam Cobb and thanked him for his service to the DIB and wished him luck on his future endeavors.

Recurring Agenda

- a. Mr. Wilson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.
- b. The proposed meeting agenda was unanimously approved.
- c. The minutes of the regular meeting of the DIB held on May 25, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Finance

- a. DIB May Financials were unanimously approved.
 - a. Board took the Finance Committee recommendation to look into setting aside funds into a C.D. if it was beneficial to the DIB.

On-Going Business

- b. StreetPlus May Report

- i. The board thanked StreetsPlus and took note of the many graffiti removals that had been done.
- c. Marketing Report
 - i. Worked on Annual Report for CRA and future work plan
 - ii. Finalizing power box wraps for Garden St Median. Commissioner Bender said that these wraps help prevent graffiti and are low maintenance.
 - iii. The 14th Annual Palafox Market celebration was a success and was covered by local media.
- d. Palafox Market
 - 1. The Market has been running successfully and had a new Manager, Emily Kopas.

New Business

- a) StreetsPlus Contract- No action was taken to end StreetsPlus contract but will be reviewed again in July
- b) Spotless Logistics Contract- The board wanted clarification on what assets Spotless will be bringing to the table, what the take home hourly rate would be for employees, what difference in graffiti removal is in proposal, and could event cleanup be a service provided to run through City Event process. Commissioner Bender suggested get at least two more quotes just to make sure we are making a sound decision on such a big contract.
- c) Palafox Street Closure- Chair Carro explained background of discussion and that he and Mr. Wilson had meet with City leadership to discuss possible street closure from 6 p.m. on Saturdays to 6 p.m. on Sundays from Garden St to Intendencia St. In the conversation with the City items to be covered such as Insurance for event, installation of bollards, and cleaning service for the event were discussed.

- a. Several business owners on Palafox showed up to speak on the issue and many stated that when a street closure is in place, they see a drop in sales from 25%-35%. Other business owners wanted to know why these funds for a street closure weren't being used to maintain current projects or allocated for more safety measures in downtown. Also stated is that when Palafox is closed and parking is shut off retailers see their business affected in a negative way. Mention of a retail committee was brought up and the board wanted to further investigate if this would give them a better read of what was happening on a day to day basis with our retail owners and bar/restaurant owners. The Board decided to table the Palafox street closure discussion.
- d) Annual Report- The Board unanimously approved the DIB's annual report to be sent to the CRA
- e) 2022/2023 work plan- The Board unanimously approved the 2022/2023 work plan to be sent to the CRA.
- f) 2021/2022 Budget Discussion- The board asked to identify ways we can utilize new funding to maintain current projects, keep downtown safe, and enhance the experience people have in Downtown.

On-Hold

- a. Fountain Lighting Project- No update
- b. DIB Projects Idea- Power Box project is coming along and will be installed in next 8 weeks.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

NEXT MEETING July 27, 2021