

City of St. Louis Downtown Development Authority

Minutes of Regular Meeting: February 25, 2021

Present: Bailey, Coty, Lewis, Flegel, Giles, Morrow, Kubin, Eilts also Hansen

Absent/Excused: Saurman, Peterman, Near, Worden, McDaid

Meeting called to order by Morrow at 12:15 p.m.,

Election of officers was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Flegel that the following slate of officers be approved:

Chairperson – Morrow, Vice-Chair – Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer – Peterman.

All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Minutes of meeting of February 20, 2020 were reviewed.

Moved by Morrow, supported by Lewis to approve the minutes of February 20, 2020 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Financial statement presented through January 31, 2021.

Moved by Coty, supported by Kubin to approve the financials through January 31, 2021 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Hansen gave report on downtown properties and project activities:

518 West Washington – Tony’s Restaurant – demolition has been completed; property will be for sale

131 & 133 North Mill Street – Gemini Capital Management Apartment Project in progress; five new second story apartments; large new storefront windows have been installed

115 North Mill Street – China King Restaurant – new management planning to open in mid-March

223 North Mill Street – The Blue Shamrock Pub – new sign coming and planning for painting and refurbishing the entire storefront of the two buildings that make up the pub (223 and 225); future work to be done on the barbershop storefront too at 221 North Mill

Properties Available for Purchase/Rent:

135 West Washington Street – former VCare Pharmacy – sale price for the building is now \$100,000.

202 North Mill Street – former Corner Market – currently empty with a sale price of \$115,000; has been some interest in this lately

220 West Washington Street – former Clark Gas Station – ownership changed recently and we have been in contact with them; EGLE (MDEQ) needs a viable development project in order to potentially provide more grant money once evaluation is done

For Rent – 219 North Mill Street – suitable for office or small retail space; Flegel Tech Repair’s original location

305 North Mill Street – Sunshine Resale Store – Sherwood Auctions will be attempting to clear out the entire furniture store building; owner may be willing to sell at that point

Hansen gave report on streetscape improvements/maintenance and signage:

Work on Enhancement Grant area on M-46 – concrete and stamped concrete needs to be restored in some areas; DPW Director Mark Abbott is putting this project together

Gratiot Downtown Art Expo Banners – 20 new banners by St. Louis artists being painted by St. Louis High School Art classes as well as by Alma Art Center; these will be displayed on North Mill Street by Memorial Day as usual

M-46 Banners – the plan is to use the St. Louis banners with the flag design that were new last year, on M-46; white banners will not be used again because of how dirty they get

Hansen gave report on promotion/advertising and events:

St. Louis Promotional Brochures – considering how to do this project in 2021

2021 St. Louis Calendar of Events – recently updated and flyers available

PRIDE and New Business Awards – list of award winners is complete, and awards are soon to be delivered to each business; this is a Chamber of Commerce program

Spirit of St. Louis Award – committee made decision Thursday, December 10; date and venue for the award to be presented is still TBA

City of St. Louis Website – in the process of being updated and revised; will look a lot different and should be easier to navigate; partially funded by a grant from the MEDC/RRC

Other Event Dates –

Sunday, April 26 – I Love My City Cleanup Day

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Parade

Tuesday, June 15 – Flag Day Ceremony at City Hall

Discussion on downtown ideas and priorities for 2021. Topics included:

St. Louis Farmers Market

Corner Market building

DDA Façade Grant Program

North Mill Street streetscape improvements

Examine City's Zoning Ordinance for possible revisions, as well as blight, etc.

Board agreed to bring back the Façade Grant Program, with an initial expenditure of \$5,000 for this year. Maximum grant awarded will be \$1,000. Hansen will complete the revisions and present the new version to the board members ASAP.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE IS
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021
AT 12:15 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**