

# ***City of St. Louis Downtown Development Authority***

Minutes of Regular Meeting: March 24, 2022

Present: Bailey, Flegel, Lewis, Giles, Near, Coty, Kubin, Peterman also Hansen  
Absent/Excused: Eilts, Near, Saurman

Meeting called to order by Mary Peterman at 12:15 p.m.

Available DDA Board positions were discussed. DDA Board has had 13 members in the past, but it is not required to have that many. Consensus was to try to add one board member at this time for total of 11. Board recommended that Hansen ask Manny Nannan, who owns St. Louis Marathon and some other properties in the downtown as well. If he gets a positive response, Hansen will send Manny's name to City Council for approval.

Minutes of meeting of February 17, 2022 were reviewed.

Moved by Bailey, supported by Coty to approve the minutes of February 17, 2022 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Financial statement presented through February 28, 2022.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Bailey to approve the financials through February 28, 2022 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Monthly Report from Hansen (attached) including:

- Downtown Properties and Project Activities
- Properties Available for Purchase/Rent
- Streetscape Improvements/Maintenance and Signage
- Promotion/Advertising and Events

Moved by Coty, supported by Flegel to accept the March monthly report and place on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

The Façade Grant Program was discussed. In addition to the two awarded, several businesses had expressed an interest but haven't followed through with an application yet.

Moved by Coty, supported by Lewis to allot \$5,000 for 2022 for the DDA Façade Program. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Hansen presented a remind of a grant funding opportunity through the State of Michigan for businesses negatively affected by Covid. Deadline is March 31.

Committee Topics were discussed.

Ways to improve color and visual interest in downtown as well as signage.

Kubin requested that Hansen find some images of what other successful downtowns have done.

Coty suggested US flags for each downtown building. Need to check on costs and where on each building they could be mounted.

Additional murals were suggested. Flegel is considering something on the side of their building and Hansen is working on another potential mural with SLHS.

Kubin mentioned that the west side of his building could be used for a Business District sign. The “Mitten” sign at St. Louis VFW could possibly be used too.

A digital sign was suggested but a good location would have to be come up with – possibly between Commercial Bank and Subway. Sign would have to be out of the MDOT right of way if on M-46. Need to find out what current costs are.

Years ago having an entryway arch over North Mill Street at the M-46 intersection was considered but it was cost-prohibitive at the time. Hansen will look into current costs.

Outdoor seating was discussed. There are a few green areas in the Central Business District that might be nice to put picnic tables. Areas mentioned were between St. Louis Optics and Jim’s Barber Shop, the Farmers Market corner, east of the Office of Human Services and west of the former City Hall building on Saginaw Street.

Restaurant outdoor seating was discussed as well. Board felt that North Mill Street restaurants especially should be encouraged to try this. Preference was to try to do the seating on the sidewalk rather than go into the parking spaces. Need to find out the width of the sidewalks in front of each restaurant and how much width/frontage they have. Flegel mentioned that more trash cans would probably need to be provided.

Electric Car Charging Stations were discussed briefly. Board just asked that the City keep in touch with them on possibilities as costs and funding sources become more clear. Would like to be part of the discussion about potential locations. Huntington Bank parking lot was mentioned as well as Saginaw Street either one block east or west of North Mill Street.

Board mentioned they had heard positive comments on the free Downtown WIFI program. Hansen will put another reminder of this feature in the next Constant Contact e-newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE IS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022  
AT 12:15 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN ST. LOUIS CITY HALL**

# ***City of St. Louis Downtown Development Authority***

MONTHLY REPORT: March 24, 2022

## **Downtown Properties and Project Activities:**

Former Clark Gas Station – 220 West Washington (M-46) – owner still intends to open it as a gas station; new pumps have been installed and more exterior improvements are on the way; no confirmed timetable for completion

Biggby Coffee – 135 West Washington Street – opening date to hopefully be announced soon

Subway – 102 West Washington – interior renovations ongoing; will be using decorative window decals on west side of the building; entire building will be used for Subway

Corner Market building – 202 North Mill Street -- continues to be interest in renting this

Frosty Cone – 333 North Mill Street – added a sign on their pavilion; opened for the season March 21

Former Dalis to the Rescue Location – 317 North Mill Street – has been cleaned and improved inside and there has been some interest

## **Properties Available for Purchase/Rent:**

Baptist Children's Home – 214 North Mill Street -- realtor informed things still proceeding with a sale

Common Threads – 109 North Mill Street – has been interest lately; inspections to be done soon

Former City Hall – 110 West Saginaw Street – space available to rent where New To You resale was

Former Paint Pantry building – 319 North Mill Street – owners have been cleaning out interior and advertising it for rent

**Streetscape Improvements/Maintenance and Signage:** Nothing new to report at the moment.

## **Promotion/Advertising and Events:**

Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt – Saturday, April 16 – Parkside Assembly to organize and run this; 11 AM to 2 PM in and around Downtown St. Louis; inflatables, hot dog lunch, photo booth, candy all FREE

I Love My City Sunday – Sunday, May 1 – St. Louis Ministerial Association brings this back after two years off due to Covid; looking for tasks/work to do for their many volunteers; flyers available; promotion to request volunteers has begun

Gratiot Downtown Art Expo banner project – art selections made; on schedule to have banners up by Memorial Day; thanks to SLHS art teacher Jay Puffpaff for all his work with the St. Louis banners

St. Louis Farmers Market - recently had their initial meeting of the year; still need to confirm ideas to do some things together with the downtown businesses. Suggestion by DDA board for businesses to hand out reminders and also to consider a DDA/Downtown booth at the Market

W.T. Morris Memorial Swimming Pool season planning has begun; excited that we may be back to a regular schedule this year post-Covid

Working with WQBX/WFYC to create some radio spots to remind people of the website address of the St. Louis Business Directory.