

City of St. Louis Downtown Development Authority

Minutes of Regular Meeting: January 25, 2024

Present: Peterman, Lewis, Bailey, Saurman, Nannan, Coty, Minor also Hansen

Absent/Excused: Flegel, Giles, Eilts

Meeting called to order by Peterman at 12:15 p.m. Welcomed Wyatt Minor, the new owner of Kubin's Furniture, to the DDA Board. Board members introduced themselves to Wyatt.

Election of officers was held.

Moved by Coty, supported by Nannan that the following slate of officers be approved:
Chairperson – Peterman, Vice-Chair – Lewis, Secretary/Treasurer – Bailey.
All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Minutes and Quarterly Report of the meeting of November 9, 2023 were reviewed.

Moved by Bailey, supported by Coty to approve the minutes and Quarterly Report of November 9, 2023 and place them on file. All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Financial statement presented through December 31, 2023.

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

Quarterly DDA Director report. Hansen presented the report (attached) which includes:

- Projects/Available Properties/Business Attraction
- Streetscape Improvements/Maintenance/Signage
- Promotion/Advertising/Events

DDA Façade Grant Program

- MT Lott, Inc. – The Snack Guys – in process
- Office of Human Services – awarded and completed
- Woody's Music – awarded and completed
- Gemini Capital Management, Subway – inquiries for the future

Hansen mentioned that he thought the program continues to be effective, and would like the board to approve future funding allotments.

Moved by Lewis, supported by Minor to approve continuation of the DDA Façade Grant program for 2024 in its current form. Also, that no financial cap would be put the the number of awards, but that the board would continue to approve each grant as they are presented.

All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Planning for 2024 – Board reviewed some items that came up at the November 9 meeting:

We continue to need to come up with suggestions for locations for additional directional signage towards the downtown.

Other potential signage for individual businesses was discussed. Hansen will check with Eilts to get input from him on this, as well as the Shark Tooth Wood Shop at the high school.

Hansen will explore costs for an entryway sign at entrance to North Mill Street off M-46. Photos of an example were passed around and project was discussed. One concern was what the height of the sign would be and would it interfere with sightlines to the stoplight on M-46.

Picnic table costs and potential locations as well as a potential improvements on the lot west of The Shop Graphics & Design.

Farmers Market progress was discussed. Moved by Bailey, supported by Coty to allot \$5,000 to support the Market again in 2024. Commercial Bank has committed to this same amount.

All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Congratulations were given to all the St. Louis Area businesses that were recognized for Pride or New Business Awards by the Gratiot Area Chamber recently. St. Louis had a great turnout at the event.

Hansen requested that next meeting be Thursday, April 18 instead of April 25.

Moved by Bailey, supported by Lewis that the next quarterly DDA Board meeting be held on Thursday, April 18 at 12:15 PM in Council Chambers in St. Louis City Hall.

All Ayes/Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE IS
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
AT 12:15 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN ST. LOUIS CITY HALL**