

Downtown Development Authority
July 13, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bardon, Johnston, Banes, Bronner, Bierlein, McLeod, McClellan, Hiles, Zehnder, and Rummel.

Absent: Zimmer, and Keller Zehnder.

Also Present: City Manager Smith, City Planner Kraushar, DDA Director Hopp, and Vickie Schmitzer.

1. Public Input

Vickie Schmitzer said she was looking forward to serving on the board again. Director Hopp explained that Council was having a discussion on the appointment of Council members to board & commissions and what their participation would entail. Chairman Bronner held a minute of silence for the passing of Dorothy Zehnder.

2. Organization

a. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented. Moved by McLeod seconded by Bierlein. Carried.

b. Accounts Payable

There were a few questions on items but were all answered by Director Hopp. The Accounts Payable were approved as presented. Moved by Zehnder, seconded by McLeod. Carried.

3. Old Business

a. Shuttle Update

Director Hopp shared that STARS had driven through town with the CVB and placed stops with signage. The shuttle route was to run the upcoming weekend but would not run during Autofest Friday or Saturday.

b. Social District

Director Hopp shared that Council, EDC, local restaurants and businesses, and the board have discussed the implementation of a social district. Hopp clarified the DDA would act as a coordinator in terms of covering the cost of trash pickup, and pursuit of a liquor license for the district. Hopp then reviewed the businesses with existing liquor licenses and a draft map of the boundaries of the district with common areas. The board had a discussion over businesses being able to “opt in or out”, the process before applying for a license to the state, and who would be liable in the event of an accident within the district. Hopp clarified individual businesses could “opt out” in the sense that businesses could choose to not permit

drinks inside their property. The DDA would recommend the district to Council who would hold a public hearing and pass a resolution before applying for a license. Individual restaurants and bars would be liable for accidents in the event of overserving. Hopp presented a rough cost estimate for the cost of cups, branding, stickers, and recycling. The board discussed the estimate while reviewing the proposed district boundaries. Concerns arose over the size of the district and the potential impact it would have on the residents. The board felt beginning with a smaller district would make it easier to track success and manage any potential problems. The board proposed the new boundaries start at Genesee St. and stretch to Jefferson St. with the possibility of opening more in the future if needed.

c. Grants

Hopp shared that City Staff had submitted two grants that had previously been brought to the board, one for the Community Foundation and one for R.A.P. Hopp also shared that a grant application for the Weiss St roundabout had entered the appropriations process, shepherded by Kildee.

4. Communication

Hopp shared that City Beautification meets next month to begin Christmas planning.

5. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm. Moved by Zehnder seconded by Bierlein. Carried.

Respectfully submitted

Recording Secretary

Emily Kraushar