

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
Zoom Telephone Conference

Present Board Members: Clay Angelucci, Thomas Petit, Vice Mayor Steve Kay, Jim Frazier, Liza Betz, Councilmember Mark Swanson, Scott Davidson, Paula Hanson, Stan Harvey, Bryanna Carroll, Kevin Atkins, Lawrence Wetherby, Dougie Allen

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune, Salvador Sanchez

Other Persons Present: Ethan Howard (DLP), Laura Farnsworth (DLP), Terry Sweeney (DLP), Taylor McDonald (DLP) Harrison Stiles (DLP), David Warren (Block-By-Block).

The meeting opened at 8:33am.

Jim Frazier welcomed the board and opened the meeting. There were two items for approval on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 6 meeting. There was a motion by Thomas Petit to approve, and a second by Scott Davidson. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the Financial Statements. Terry Sweeney noted that the projected spending includes \$65,000 for the Reopening/Recovery grants. Projecting a \$110,000 carryover into the next fiscal year. There was a motion by Paula Hanson to approve, and a second by Thomas Petit. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Budget and Establish Committees

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is included in the packet. The committee has met and this is a unanimous budget. The Board elected to spend \$50,000 from the carryover to cover existing expenses, the Recovery & Reopening Grant program that will be discussed later in the meeting. Vice Mayor Steve Kay has recommended a third column added to the budget to that includes actual spending from the prior year to evaluate what was spent and if there were funding allocated that was not spent. David Warren questioned if funding had been allocated for the Second Chance Employment Program. Both Jim Frazier and Terry Sweeney noted that those funds come through DLP, not DLMD. Terry confirmed that there will be funding for that program moving forward.

Jim Frazier has asked the Board if they want to include a line-item that includes a certain amount of dollars that the Executive Committee has the right to dip into between the bi-monthly meetings to cover things such as additional security, cleaning, etc. Stan Harvey questioned if there was an ability to call a special meeting if a spending need arises. Jim Frazier said yes, or could give that power to the Executive Committee, or do nothing. No decision was reached.

There was a motion by Lawrence Wetherby to approve the budget for FY21, and a second by Thomas Petit. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Frazier will take the budget to the Council for their approval in August.

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DLMD Open Board Seat

Two seats that has been allocated to the DLC and the LDDA that are now open. It was determined that Paula Hanson will continue to fill that LDDA role until she is either reappointed or replaced by Mayor Gorton. Jim Frazier has asked the Board that any interested candidates for Board members be sent to him for consideration to be forwarded to the Mayor.

Property Improvement Grant Changes to Support Business Recovery

Ethan Howard informed the Board that 17 grants have been awarded and three are pending for a total of \$56,000. That leaves around \$9,000 left for additional grants. Used for items including rent, PPE, barricades, and additional seating. Ethan added that DLP's marketing for the program has included television/radio ads, and social media posts.

DLP Update

Harrison Stiles informed the Board about two new DLP marketing programs: DowntownLEX Together Presented by Central Bank and Wear to Show You Care mask program. DowntownLEX Together is a customer rewards program that encourages shopping throughout downtown with weekly gift card winners and a cash "grand prize." DLP is receiving around 50 receipts each week. Wear to Show You Care encourages safe behavior in downtown, including wearing masks in common spaces.

Laura Farnsworth provided insight into what it may take to bring public events back to downtown, which includes pre-registration, temperature checks, and social distancing. The DLP/DLMD Annual Meeting and State of Downtown events have been tentatively scheduled for September. Laura, Ethan, and Terry are working on that new program looks like for 2020.

On Street Report

David Warren noted that since the "stay at home" orders, his staff remains healthy. There are most issues with the homeless population due to restrictions in the shelters. There are more people sleeping on benches. There are also issues related to a lack of public restrooms. The ambassadors continue to sanitize highly touched surfaces. Protests are creating limited graffiti and mess, but are overall peaceful. As bars and restaurants reopen, there is more garbage to clean up on the weekends.

Dougie Allen noted that crowds are beginning to gather in mass in the parking lot and street near his business (Creaux). He is working to address this issue with Lexington Police and other stakeholders in the area. Terry Sweeney mentioned that he was working on a committee to address these issues on Short Street.

Lawrence Wetherby mentioned that Triangle Park was looking a little unkempt. David asked permission of the Board if the Ambassadors has permission to clean the area, since it belongs to the City. Terry mentioned that to deter bad behavior, the electric in the park has been shut off to eliminate people charging their phones.

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Issues Not on the Agenda

Councilmember Swanson informed the Board that the hanging basket program has been eliminated from the future budget, as was questioned in the May meeting at an expense of \$50,000. There is also no funding for the lighting around the trees in future years. Jim Frazier has mentioned possibly spending some funding on those items in future seasons.

Public Forum

No public comment was entered.

The next meeting of the Downtown Lexington Management District will be held on Wednesday, September 2.

With the boards work complete, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39am.