

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 7, 2022
McBrayer

Present Board Members: Dougie Allen, Clay Angelucci, Kevin Atkins, Juan Castro, James Frazier, Vice Mayor Steve Kay, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Taunya Phillips, Mary Quinn Ramer, Woodford Webb

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Kate Savage (Arts Connect), Carla Blanton

Jim Frazier welcomed the board and opened the meeting. He introduced Carla Blanton, the new executive director of the DLMD.

Approval of May 4 board minutes

K. Atkins corrected a typo in the last sentence to change “when” to “went.” T. Pettit made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. J. Castro seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial statements and budget

Comparative statement: J. Castro presented the comparative statement. He explained the improvement grants included CycleYOU and Horse & Jockey. They should have been paid in June but didn’t have all the final documentation. He and C. Blanton will do the final review and ensure all the paperwork is complete. He also pointed out the cost for a mailing to property owners, a management services check paid to DLP in June rather than July because the contract ended and sponsorship of the State of Downtown. The year ended with a net profit of \$1,407.10.

Budget YTD: The budget is better than expected with the net income mentioned above. Areas of concern include funds not budgeted for Block-by-Block, hospitality and equipment as well as website design management.

Proposed 2022-2023 budget:

The revenues will be about the same as last year except for \$30,000 from the city for security, which is unknown at this point. Lighting grants will go from \$5,500 to \$18,500. In addition, \$25,000 will be budgeted for downtown improvement grants with \$10,000 already allocated to help move the John Henry sculpture to the Central Bank Center.

There was discussion about cutting the afternoon hospitality ambassador but hold the money to see how it works. Eventually, that savings may be allocated toward property improvement grants. K. Atkins made the motion to amend the proposed budget to end the afternoon hospitality ambassador position but not reallocate the funds until the DLMD can see how it is working. W. Webb seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

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T. Pettit made a motion to approve the financial statements and the budget. VM Kay seconded the motion. The budget, as amended, passed unanimously.

LFUCG Update

CM LeGris and VM Kay gave an update on downtown investments in the new city budget and other government activities in and around the DLMD, which include:

- \$172,000 for lighting for Tandy Park and surrounding areas, which should be finished in time for the Breeders' Cup
- An update coming this summer on the redesign study for Phoenix Park
- The Mayor's Downtown Safety Work Group continues to meet
- Art Carts along Town Branch Commons/Town Branch Trail
- Splash Pad at Charles Young Park and renovation of the rest room (outside the DLMD)
- Research on the noise ordinance based on complaints aimed at vehicular noise from motorcycles and souped-up cars on the Main Street loop
- A group is looking at identifying land to preserve as well as land useful for development and conditions for changing designations of that land

There was a discussion about possible tweaks to the Art Carts program to address various concerns – the art carts being unoccupied for much of the time, whether the location is conducive to visibility and sales, and the unsightliness of multiple unoccupied carts chained together, which also clogs the walkways.

Chairman's Update

J. Frazier yielded his time to Sheriff Kathy Witt to talk about the DLMD security program, which began in April, to provide two uniformed Sheriff's Department officers from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday (originally included Wednesday nights). (This is in addition to the two officers at the Victorian Square garage, which are not paid for by DLMD.)

In general, the Sheriff's Department is seeing a lot more alcohol consumption as well as verbal and physical altercations since the pandemic began as well as increased prevalence of people carrying firearms. Mental health calls also are off the charts.

The parking lot on near the intersection of Mill and Short streets is a problem area. The property owner's help is needed to increase lighting and make it a place where people don't want to hang out.

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There was discussion about that area attracting people who aren't patrons of downtown businesses but just bring alcohol and congregate along the street and in the parking lot.

Additional discussion focused on what could be done in partnership with the city to improve that area. In addition, it was requested that the officers walk around the District more while on duty.

Block-by-Block Report

David Warren is starting to keep track of the number of times ambassadors resolve conflicts without having to involve the police. In addition, they are working with parks & rec as well as police.

Committee Reports

None.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 7.