**Present Board Members:** Dougie Allen, Clay Angelucci, Kevin Atkins, Liza Betz, Bryanna Carroll, Juan Castro, Scott Davidson, Jason Ervin, James Frazier, Vice Mayor Steve Kay, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Mary Quinn Ramer, Woodford Webb

**Advisory Board Members**: Beverly Fortune

**Others Present:** Dudley Webb (The Webb Companies), David Warren (Block-By-Block), Laura Farnsworth (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Kate Savage (Arts Connect), Carla Blanton

**Approval of Sept. 7 Board Minutes**

K. Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes. W. Webb seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Downtown Lexington Partnership Update**

L. Farnsworth provided a DLP update, which is focused on the Breeders’ Cup Festival. A portion of Main Street between Upper and Mill will be closed from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**VisitLEX/Tourism Update**

MQ Ramer stated that hotels, restaurants and the airport are at capacity for Breeders’ Cup. Starting in March, numbers for tourism continued on a strong trajectory. In September, there was 68.6 percent occupancy. Demand is strong. The average daily rate for hotels was $122.78 in September, compared to $114.57 in September 2021. They would love to see occupancy between 65 percent and 70 percent. Group business has not yet fully recovered. The Central Bank Center has greatly helped, and VisitLEX expects full recovery in 2023.

**Update on the New High Street Development**

D. Webb provided an overview of the planned development on High Street. The 17-acre property is expected to cost $300 million and will include:

* A 200-300 room hotel
* An entertainment facility that will fill the gap between the Opera House and Rupp Arena with 4,000 to 4,500 seats. It will hold shows, meetings and events. It is predicted to be occupied about 200 nights per year.
* A 52,000 square-foot grocery store
* Restaurants
* Ground level retail
* 3,600 parking spots in three parking garages
* Stroll way toward the university
* 690 residential apartment units
* Office space

Construction is slated to begin in late spring with a completion date of 2025.

**Financial Updates**

J. Castro provided the financial update.

The balance sheet is $48,474.82 for September. The next round of checks should start coming in during November, and the district should have enough funds on hand to make all October payments.

The comparative statement of activities shows no income for the current period. The year to date is $2,538 from old taxes (2016-17) that were received in August.

The district is running about $38,000 to $40,000 in monthly expenses with the largest expenses from Block by Block and additional security.

The current budget year to date is better than budgeted. The spending is in line with the current budget. November is the last month for additional security, which will end after the Breeders’ Cup.

There was a question of whether the crime numbers with and without extra security can be tracked. D. Allen stated that it feels like there haven’t been as many incidents and that it has been a lot calmer, although there have been some big incidents.

J. Frazier stated that the parking authority will continue extra security in the Victorian Square parking garage.

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the financial report. L. Betz seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**LFUCG Update**

Vice Mayor Kay, who was applauded for his service as this is his last meeting as a board member because term limits prevent him from running for re-election, provided an update on city initiatives:

* The city has a $40 million fund balance. The bulk of that money will be spent on public safety, including increases in salaries.
* CM LeGris withdrew a request for Phoenix Park and will work to include the funding in future budgets.
* The Goal 4 Workgroup probably will release its report next week. It then goes to the Planning Commission and Council for consideration.

**Block-by-Block Report**

D. Warren reported that his team is engaged in Breeders’ Cup activities. His safety team is working until 10 p.m. through the festival.

The team members also are taking care of leaves. With the weather, they also are seeing more people sleeping outside downtown, but it is fairly quiet.

**Executive Director Report**

C. Blanton provided an update on increased social media activity, the October newsletter distribution and speaking engagements.

**Art Committee Report**

The Art Committee reviewed applications from the Hilton for a public mural for the side of its building by Wylie Caudill and another from the *I Was Here* project. The committee asked for additional information from both applicants before it makes a decision. The Hilton will send additional information as it becomes available. Earlier this week, *I Was Here* provided additional information on the breakdown of costs and the matching contribution as well as removed the installation that is not within the district. The committee will review that information and make a recommendation to the full board.

**Other comments**

W. Webb asked about the lack of activity with the art carts and suggested perhaps a study is needed to determine how they could be better used.

Heather Lyons will be asked to give a presentation on the art carts.

B. Fortune highlighted the new lights in the 5/3 Pavilion in Tandy Park, a project started by the district and funded through federal recovery funds.

MQ Ramer detailed how the VisitLEX Horse Kicks publicity has garnered media attention nationally and internationally. The “pop-up” store windows feature the horse sneakers at the corner of Main and Broadway.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom and in person at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 4.