

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023
McBrayer and Zoom

Present Board Members: Dougie Allen, Clay Angelucci, Kevin Atkins, Liza Betz, Juan Castro, Jason Ervin, James Frazier, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Mary Quinn Ramer, Woodford Webb

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Anthony Boone (Block-by-Block), Laura Farnsworth (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Kate Savage (Arts Connect), Nicole Saitta (CM LeGris' office), Carla Blanton

Approval of Nov. 2 Board Minutes

The minutes were amended to correct the spelling of Webb. It also was noted that Heather Lyons should be asked to participate in the next board meeting. W. Webb made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. T. Pettit seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Downtown Lexington Partnership Update

L. Farnsworth provided a DLP update. Thursday Night Live is 91 days out, the annual meeting will be held in late April and the State of Downtown is scheduled for mid-June. Interviews are being conducted for a new executive director, who should be named by the end of the month.

VisitLEX/Tourism Update

MQ Ramer reported that a holiday gathering was held in appreciation of the ambassadors. Updated pedway way-finding signage is being done, and new inserts should be in place in time for the spring meet at Keeneland.

Update on Safety

Rodrick Robinson, deputy chief of staff for Sheriff Kathy Witt, provided an update on the results of additional safety being provided in the District. Deputies and command staff were present every weekend from April 6 through Nov. 6. A total of 777 hours were dedicated during this time. The Sheriff's office worked in partnership with the Lexington Police Department.

More than 7,500 contacts were made with citizens, business owners and patrons. The majority were patrons and business owners who were appreciative of the law enforcement presence. There also were several calls for service due to disorders, severely intoxicated people who had to be transported to local hospitals, calls of shots fired, assaults, domestic violence assaults and wanton endangerment. These calls resulted in arrests being made for DUI, alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, assault, domestic violence assault and wanton endangerment.

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The increased lighting in and around Tandy Park was very beneficial to both law enforcement and patrons.

Financial Updates

J. Castro provided the financial update.

The balance sheet was \$308,943 as of Nov. 30. Total income was \$336,843, and net income was \$133,473.

There were questions about rotating banks and exceeding the limits of what the FDIC insures. J. Castro responded that the District is only over the limit for a short time and wouldn't make sense from an accounting perspective. The bank was chosen because it is in the district. There would be a lot of paperwork to change banks.

The Block-by-Block contract will go up \$10,669.

W. Webb asked about additional security for the coming year, especially as it relates to the District not being able to provide services that the city already provides.

The downtown safety task force will be reconvening and will get a report from the police. In addition, Lex Park has permanent security built in.

D. Allen stated that it could be beneficial to have someone from the department be a liaison so there is a consistent person to deal with.

K. Atkins will talk to the chief. The downtown sector staffing level is above what it was when the DLMD started, but the sector is more than the DLMD. A lot of attention is focused on the Tandy Park area.

A correction to a misspelling was made.

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the financial report. H. LeGris seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

LFUCG Update

CM Hanna LeGris stated that the council, which has six new members, will be back in session Jan. 17. There will be a new committee structure, and council members will vote on new committee chairs and vice chairs.

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The budgeting requests already are starting. They also have received a lot of inquiries about the parking changes. She will continue to share information and feedback even though parking is outside the purview of the council. There is a program for hospitality workers for a \$20/month rate.

James Brown will be the new council representative to replace Steve Kay.

Block-by-Block Report

D. Warren and A. Boone provided information on the possibility of the District having an information trike, which would serve as a mobile visitors' center for informational brochures. VisitLEX would provide half the funding. It would provide a greater opportunity to engage with visitors and residents. The total cost would be \$3,500 -- \$1,750 for each entity. It would be branded and provide more visibility for the DLMD. It is considered a best practice for cities with management districts, provides an additional level of security and is a visible demonstration of tax dollars at work.

Concerns were raised about liability, ownership details and maintenance.

MQ Ramer said VisitLEX is extremely supportive. It meets the needs of visitors, especially with the new \$300 million Central Bank Center opening.

Board members requested a video that shows the trike in other cities and samples of ownership agreements and liability. A vote will take place in March.

The board voted to ratify an extra \$10,000 for Block-by-Block, which was executed in December. K. Atkins made the motion to approve, and J. Castro seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

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

Art Committee Report

The Art Committee received additional information on the *I Was Here* project and unanimously voted not to fund the project.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom and in person at 8:30 a.m. March 1.