

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 9, 2023
McBrayer

Present Board Members: Kevin Atkins, Liza Betz, Council Member James Brown, Bryanna Carroll, Juan Castro, James Frazier, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Woodford Webb

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Allen McDaniel (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Chris Cooperrider (LFUCG), Katie Kaufman (325 West Main), Carla Blanton

Public Comment

None.

Approval of March 1 Board Minutes

The minutes were amended to correct that Kevin Atkins was present via Zoom. L. Betz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. T. Pettit seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Downtown Lexington Partnership Update

A. McDaniel provided a DLP update. Mayfest is coming up and will be bigger than in the past with around 87 vendors.

325 West Main

K. Kaufman provided information on the new project at the old Festival Market site. There will be restaurants and retail on the first floor and office space on the second and third floors. The goal is to keep the beauty of the structure and turn it into something modern.

Parks Update

C. Cooperrider provided an update on parks within/near the DLMD. The Fifth Third Pavilion received new lighting for security and aesthetics.

There is a new scheme for planters to provide more color in the future and the ability to switch out dead plantings more quickly.

The Commons splash park will open in late July at the Charles Young Park, which is one of the anchors of the Town Branch Trail.

The Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden will have additions of art by LaVon Williams, more shade and a summer concert series.

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Financial Updates

J. Castro provided the financial update. The DLMD received \$2,351.58 in additional taxes. It's unheard of for the DLMD to receive funds in April.

There was a loss of \$29,983.60. Year to date, net income is \$118,738.89.

Expenses for Block-by-Block services are in line, and the current spending is about \$40,000 above budget. DLMD won't receive any more money for the year and should have about \$45,000 left in the bank account.

The DLMD draft budget will tentatively be presented to Council on June 27 for approval.

K. Atkins made a motion to approve the financial report. T. Pettit seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

J. Castro stated that more vendors are asking for payment online and made a request for a debit card in the hands of the treasurer only. It was recommended that a credit card in the DLMD name with authorization only for the treasurer would be a better solution. K. Atkins made a motion to authorize the credit card with a limit of \$2,500 and the executive committee should review the credit card receipts. W. Webb seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Council Update

There will be a public hearing tonight on the Comprehensive Plan's Goals & Objectives. The budget process is ongoing. A short-term rental policy is currently being considered at the Planning Commission. Changes have been made to make it more restrictive.

Chairman's Report

J. Frazier announced that it would be C. Blanton's last meeting and thanked her.

Block-by-Block Report

D. Warren asked the board if there is anything more the ambassadors need to be doing with more visitors coming downtown. Board members reaffirmed that the ambassadors are providing excellent service.

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Executive Director Report

C. Blanton provided an update on social media activity and other communication efforts.

Other board action

K. Atkins made a motion to move the July board meeting from July 5 to July 12 because of the holiday. W. Webb seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The board then went into closed session regarding a financial obligation.

Following the closed session, K. Atkins made a motion to enter into a provider agreement with the Downtown Lexington Partnership for six months. At the end of six months, the DLMD can extend it for one year. T. Pettit seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held in person at 8:30 a.m. July 12.