

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
McBrayer

Present Board Members: Dougie Allen, Kevin Atkins, Liza Betz, Juan Castro, James Frazier, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Ron Tritschler

Advisory Board Members: Beverly Fortune

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Allen McDaniel (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Laura Farnsworth (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Kate Savage (Arts Connect) Hannah Eiden (Office of CM LeGris), Commander Sam Murdock, Commander Darin Salyer (Lexington Division of Police)

Call to Order

Chairman J. Frazier called the meeting to order with quorum at 8:30a.

Ron Tritschler, The Webb Companies, was welcomed as a new Commissioner on the DLMD Board.

LFUCG Update

To allow the guests from Lexington Division of Police to return to duty, the agenda was rearranged to start with the LFUCG update. Commanders S. Murdock and D. Salyer provided an update on the Patrol Unit and staffing plans for the summer. Starting in April, 18 officers on bicycles will provide 7-day a week coverage throughout downtown. These officers have higher levels of alcohol beverage control and homeless issues training.

Next, Councilmember H. LeGris provided an update; Council is currently in budget season, with Mayor Gorton presenting her budget in mid-April. Following, the Council will divide into groups, called links, to consider the budget and recommend changes. The budget must be confirmed prior to July 1, 2024.

Approval of January 10 Board Minutes

K. Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes. T. Pettit seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Updates

J. Casto provided the financial update. The year to date 2024 vs 2023 shows tax collections are down around \$10,000. However, overall the net income is \$8,000 more in 2024 than 2023, and there is plenty of cash to cover expenses until the end of the fiscal year in June.

No revenue was received from Property Tax in February. Despite property transfers that were once tax revenue generating to non-profit status (former Lexington Herald-Leader building to Fayette Co. Public Schools), the net income to budget is still \$23,112.47

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Total assets in the bank continue to grow year over year, with sufficient amounts to cover the accounts payable and the \$9,000 grant encumbrance, this was approved in January for the Hilton Lexington/Downtown. The recertification efforts can also be covered. R. Tritschler made a motion to approve the financial report, and H. LeGris seconded the motion. The financials were approved unanimously.

Community Partner Updates

McDaniel provided an update on DLP's strategic plan process. The strategy sessions are complete and have provided several areas for DLMD to focus on, including awareness and branding.

Block-by-Block Report

D. Warren provided an update on the Ambassadors. The staff are gearing up for spring events in the district by training staff for public engagement and following up with downtown business owners.

Chairman's Report

J. Frazier addressed the recertification of the district in spring of 2025. There are additional property owners adjacent to the current northern boundary who are interested in learning more about becoming part of the District. Frazier will seek the values of the properties within the possible new areas and determine the ROI to see if it's practical to expand.

A task force focused on the renewal had a meeting to establish a timeline for renewal and other logistical needs. The task force includes A. McDaniel, B. Fortune, T. Pettit.

Also, J. Frazier and J. Castro will arrange to present the next year budget to Council in May, per the DLMD ordinance requirements.

Art Grant

An application was submitted on behalf of Expansion Festival to produce digital graphics and projection mapping installations during the summer of 2024. The request was not approved, citing a desire for more permanent art installations for grants.

With the work of the board complete, the meeting was concluded at 9:37a. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on May 1 at McBrayer.