

Downtown Lansing Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Online Meeting
October 8th, 2020

Members Present: S. Schriener, JV Anderton, C. Nader, J. Tischler, C. Zarkovich, T.J. Bucholz

Members Absent: C. Dorshimer

Board Advisors Present:

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Staff Present: C. Edgerly, B. Kuiper, S. Dhladhla

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:35 am.

II. Citizen's Comments: None

- a. **Correspondence:** The Lansing Art Gallery sent a lovely thank-you letter about their participation in the Lift Up Local weeks and how beneficial their pop-up outdoor shop experience was.

IV. Approvals

-Agenda for Oct 8th, 2020:

C. Zarkovich moved to approve, T.J. Bucholz supported. Motion passed.

-Minutes from September 17th, 2020 Board Meeting:

J. Tischler moved to approve, C. Zarkovich supported. Motion passed.

-Committee Reports:

J. Tischler moved to approve, TJ Bucholz supported. Motion passed.

V. Downtown Policing Update: Officer Reust was called away, no update.

VI. Reports:

Director's Report: Cathleen Edgerly: DLI is hosting a walking tour in conjunction with placemaking event next week. There is a lot going on including an art tour. The Arts Council is creating a map. Last week Cathleen represented DLI and presented on the effects of COVID, innovative planning at the MML Fall conference. The MEDA conference is coming up as well and she will be representing DLI there.

Several new businesses are opening up over the next two weeks. Please stop in/send a message to welcome them downtown. Next week is the last Lift Up Local week of the season. DLI is also working on a haunted Drive-Thru event with the Artist Umbrella.

President's Report- JV Anderton: Regarding our insurance per Greg from the City Atty's office: The city self-insures for their first million dollars and anything outside of those limits comes from a pool. We will receive a letter detailing his thoughts, but it's not

likely that we can piggyback or be part of their MML package because we can't self-insure to that degree. So, we will need to move forward with other insurance options.

Monthly Financials- Jim Tischler: The packet is missing the financials so we will defer this discussion and place them on file.

VII. Discussion/Action Items:

a. DLI Insurance Coverage: see President's Report

b. Downtown Maintenance Contract Award: (Cathleen) After a brief board discussion, J. Tischler moved to approve the Lake State proposal. TJ Bucholz supported. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Winter Recharge & Activation Program: (Beth) DLI is working hard with all committees to help our small businesses. DLI received a 15K grant from Consumers to help activate the downtown for the winter months. Super Web Pros and other design specialists will create QR codes for windows and the Michigan Retailer's Assn will provide some signage. There will be more in pop-up shops and the office is working with property owners on signage to overall activate vacant storefronts for the holidays and winter season. The office is also going through the survey responses of downtown businesses and getting more ideas every day. -Current ideas being explored include: closing a side street, providing lighting, and possibly using snowflakes or ornamental lighting to add vibrancy downtown in the winter months where its typically pretty dark. This will help our businesses as well as help keep residents' spirits up.

d. Downtown Development Projects: (Cathleen) There is a Committee of the Whole meeting tonight at 5m where they will be discussing the 300 block of South Washington projects including walls, HVAC and other improvements that will provide long term results and make a big difference in this small development. COW will also be discussing the proposal for Lansing Shuffleboard and Social Club which could activate all sorts of other businesses and revolve in and out. Detroit Rising Development has had success with this before. The board is asked to support both projects and advocate for these downtown projects in the future.

e. New Business: The E. Allegan/Grand structure demolition is moving forward and Cathleen will keep everyone updated.

VIII. Adjourn: J. Tischler moved to adjourn, C. Nader supported. Meeting Adjourned at 12:19 pm.