



**MINUTES**  
**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 26, 2019**

**Members Present**

Robert Banks  
Ollie Barber  
Greg Fischer  
David James  
Chris Jones  
Susan Moss  
Ted Nixon  
Carter Vance  
Nicole Walton  
Frank Ward  
Jaleigh White

**Members Absent**

Scott Brinkman  
Greg Fischer  
Carmen Miller  
Cathy Shannon

**Others Present**

Mary Ellen Wiederwohl  
Joshua Watkins

**Staff Present**

Deborah Bilitski  
Jeremiah Johnson  
David Karem  
Alex Laughlin  
Cordell Lawrence  
Richard Marion  
Bryan McKiernan  
Catherine Nelson  
Gary Pepper  
Kelley Runyon  
Margaret Walker

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Moss at 4:09 p.m. on June 26, 2019 at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the April 24, 2019 Board meeting were approved.

**Communications and Correspondence:****Items in Board Packet:**

Mr. Karem reviewed the Board packet:

- WRO information for Hughes Loft
- Note from Sandra Frazier which accompanied her donation to go toward the Juneteenth celebration

Mr. Karem also introduced summer intern Jeremiah Johnson.

**Executive Director's Report:****FY20 Budget**

David Karem announced that the Louisville Metro Council passed a budget yesterday decreased funding to Waterfront Park by \$300,000. Staff must look at ways to fill that gap.

David Karem also informed the Board that a payment is expected to come to Waterfront Park from the RiverPark Place development, which is a one-time payment. Staff recommends transferring this payment, which is expected to be \$500,000 - \$600,000, directly to the Waterfront Park Foundation to be used for future maintenance of the development area. Ollie Barber would like to explore splitting the payment between operating funds and the Foundation. Susan Moss tabled discussion until the next meeting. Cordell Lawrence informed the Board that he would invest the funds in short term CDs until the Board reaches a decision for the best use of the funds. David Karem recommended to the Board that the budget gap be filled through recurring revenue sources, especially as additional cuts in the Louisville Metro Government funding are expected.

Deborah Bilitski mentioned that at the June Metro Council budget hearing, all Metro Council members were supportive of Waterfront Park.

Cordell Lawrence informed the Board that the actual budget need for FY20 is \$231,000, which could be filled with other agency funds.

### **WRO: Hughes Loft**

Deborah Bilitski presented building design changes for Hughes Loft and recommended approval of the WRO Permit. The permit was unanimously approved.

### **Phase IV Update**

Deborah Bilitski reported that staff is regrouping on Phase IV out of concern for taking on additional park space while also suffering operating funding cuts. The plan is to move forward with PlayWorks at Waterfront Park in collaboration with the Kentucky Science Center. Staff has applied for a grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation and Ted Nixon is seeking donations from individuals to kick the project off. The goal is to make a statement that we are committed to moving forward with the project. Ollie Barber mentioned there has been good publicity around PlayWorks and the River Road extension.

### **Encore Louisville**

Deborah Bilitski gave a recap of a recent meeting with the Encore Louisville team, Board members, and staff. The Encore team is compiling a written report with their recommendations.

### **Friends of the Waterfront**

Joshua Watkins reminded the Board that the Silver Anchor Awards, honoring Mike Berry, will take place September 19 on the Belle of Louisville.

Nicole Walton followed up on a suggestion made at the previous Board meeting to also honor Louisville Tourism for their support of the Belle of Louisville. Since they have been honored with the Silver Anchor Award in the past, FOTW will find a different method of honoring Louisville Tourism.

### **Belle of Louisville**

David Karem gave updates for the Belle of Louisville. The boats continue to fight high water and have lost some cruises due to river levels and the weather. Staff is working to make up that lost revenue. As a reminder, the Belle hosts thousands of school children on field trips each year.

Deborah Bilitski announced that the Belle of Louisville CEO position is currently vacant and we have received over 40 applications – all very qualified folks from Louisville and outside the area.

### **Events**

Ashley Smith gave an update on events. Waterfront Wednesday is tonight; past events have suffered from bad weather. She also invited all Board members to attend the Louisville Waterfront Fourth event on July 4. Upcoming events include: Forecastle Festival, LVAA Art Camp, Juneteenth Jubilee, Color Run and the Bike Sense art project will launch this summer. David Karem mentioned that the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth hosted a luncheon in the Board Room today.

### **Maintenance**

Gary Pepper gave a maintenance update. The recurring high water has hampered maintenance operations as well as damaged the river's edge of the park. However, the frequent rain is keeping the park green. He also reported that the Big Four Bridge lights are operational.

### **Personnel Actions**

Susan Moss announced personnel actions.

Margaret Walker is retiring effective July 31, 2019. David Karem spoke about her career at Waterfront Park.

David Karem is retiring as President effective July 31, 2019. The Board voted to keep David on staff as Director Emeritus to help with the leadership transition.

The Board approved Deborah Bilitski as President and Executive Director effective August 1, 2019.

Susan Moss announced that the Waterfront Development Corporation office building will be named the "David K. Karem Building", which was also approved by the Board.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.