



MINUTES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

June 28, 2023

Members Present

Inga Arvin
Oliver Barber - Virtual
Marianne Butler - Virtual
Terri Connolly
Kevin Fields
Chris Jones
Kerry Stemler
Kevin Trager – Mayor’s Designee
President Markus Winkler

Members Absent

Troy Miles
Susan Moss
Ted Nixon
Purna Veer
Joshua Watkins

Staff Present

Deborah Bilitski
David Karem
Cordell Lawrence
Catie Nelson
Gary Pepper
Kelley Runyon
Ashley Smith
Alex Vega

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:05 p.m. on June 28, 2023. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes for the April 26, 2023 meeting were approved.

Executive Director's Report:

Deborah Bilitski introduced new employee Alex Vega, who was recently hired into the Park Coordinator role. She also presented updates re: Brough Brothers Distillery and Pig Beach BBQ.

Events

Catie Nelson reviewed events that took place in Waterfront Park since the April meeting. She also gave more information about the Louisville Downtown Cinebus, Waterfront Wednesday, Waterfront Park July 4, Pitbull concert and Food & Wine Fest events.

Financials

Cordell Lawrence reminded the Board that the current fiscal year ends Friday and he gave an update on the end of year financial projections. Overall expenses are under budget and revenue is over budget. The end of year financials will be available for the August 23 meeting.

Deborah updated the Board on the FY24 budget, which was adopted by Louisville Metro Council on June 22. Waterfront Park's appropriation of \$1.2 million was approved. Staff is still finalizing the FY 24 budget, as well as continuing to work to have State funding reinstated.

Chris Jones mentioned that the staff has been operating as a skeleton crew and is looking to increase staff as the park grows. Deborah added that a new seasonal employee may convert to full-time, and another full-time employee begins August 1.

WRO: Mercer Vestibule

David Karem presented a WRO permit request from Mercer Transportation to renovate a vestibule entrance area to make it ADA compliant. The Board voted unanimously to approve the design permit.

WRO Administrator

David Karem is stepping down from the role of WRO Administrator and a replacement is needed. Deborah recommended the appointment of Kelley Runyon to the role. The board was

reminded that smaller items such as signage are approved at the staff level, but larger projects or developments require Board approval and often a volunteer committee assists with the review.

The Board approved Kelley's appointment to WRO administrator.

Development/ Fundraising

Ashley Smith presented progress on the FY23 fundraising campaign, which has raised \$353,351.22 from 676 transactions.

Phase IV Update

Deborah gave an update on Waterfront Park Phase IV. An application for a \$10 million OLRP grant was recently submitted. Construction permits have been obtained, so construction on Phase IV should begin next week. In addition, the Envirome Institute and Air Pollution Control recently performed an air quality test at the Phase IV site, with good air quality results.

Johnetta Roberts gave an update on the community engagement plan.

Park Maintenance

Gary Pepper reported that the park has been busy with back events. There are two potential long-term employees in the pipeline. President Winkler offered to share a contact information for potential volunteers.

Belle of Louisville Riverboats

Deborah gave an update on the Belle of Louisville Riverboats since Krista Snider is on vacation. The Belle is happy to have received an appropriation increase as well as two funded capital projects – updates to the Broaddus and the Mary M. Miller dry dock project.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.