



MINUTES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2023

Members Present

Oliver Barber - Virtual
Marianne Butler - Virtual
Terri Connolly - Virtual
Kevin Fields
Chris Jones
Troy Miles - Virtual
Susan Moss
Ted Nixon - Virtual
Kevin Trager – Mayor’s Designee
President Markus Winkler - Virtual

Members Absent

Inga Arvin
Kerry Stemler
Purna Veer
Joshua Watkins

Staff Present

Deborah Bilitski
Emily Clayton
Cordell Lawrence
Catie Nelson
Gary Pepper
Kelley Runyon
Ashley Smith
Krista Snider
Will Thompson
Alex Vega

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:03 p.m. on October 25, 2023. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes for the August 23, 2023 meeting were approved.

Chris Jones celebrated the current state of affairs for Waterfront Park and thanked staff for their hard work throughout the year.

Executive Director's Report:

Deborah introduced new staff member Will Thompson to the board. Will is a maintenance crew member with 15 years of landscape construction experience and moved to Louisville from California.

Deborah also reported on her experience on the 3-day GLI GLIDE trip to Boston. Deborah was able to do a presentation on the park and interview the Executive Director of Boston Harbor Now.

Also, Waterfront Park is grateful to Mayor Greenberg for including Waterfront Park's operating funding in the mayor's legislative priorities that have been sent to the general assembly in Frankfort.

Kevin Trager added that the request for \$800,000 per year over two years is relatively small in comparison to the \$250 million in capital projects for the city.

First Quarter Financials

Cordell Lawrence provided a review of the first quarter's financials. Deborah added that by practicing conservative budgeting we have been able to increase our capacity.

Development/ Fundraising

Ashley Smith presented the results of the Give for Good campaign which we were able to greatly exceed our fundraising goal. Ashley also shared the progress of the board and staff giving challenge and anonymous match of \$25,000. Our anonymous donor has also pledged that sponsorships can be considered applicable to reach the matching funds goal.

Events

Catie Nelson reported on October events and the wrap up of the season, a full report will be given at the next meeting. Highlights from October includes the return of Venardos Circus now on the South Great Lawn, Via Colori chalk art festival, and the second year for the Friends of Waterfront Park Hot Brown Showdown.

Park Maintenance

Gary Pepper gave an update on the foundation request results. The team is continuing to winterize the park. The Elm trees in the Festival Plaza have deteriorated so those will be replaced with mature Tulip Poplars. Gary estimates the paver project under I-64 will be complete by Thanksgiving.

Phase IV Update

Deborah and Ted Nixon reported on progress of Phase IV funding opportunities. Deborah mentioned that that we are making plans to contract Mike Kimmel to work on Phase IV. Johnetta Roberts continues to conduct community engagement for the west expansion.

Belle of Louisville Riverboats

Krista Snider gave an update for Belle of Louisville Riverboats. Quarter 1 gross revenue up 20% compared to FY23. Net income up by 7% over the same timeframe in FY23 and expenses down over last year. Passenger numbers are up 12% calendar YTD, which is 30% better than 2019.

Mary Miller has been at the shipyard for the last two weeks for scheduled inspections. Julie Hammel-Furlong, F&B Manager is a ROSE Awards Finalist. New 2024 Field Trip program, STEAMboat announced.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.