



MINUTES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

December 6, 2023

Members Present

Inga Arvin
Oliver Barber - Virtual
Marianne Butler - Virtual
Terri Connolly
Chris Jones
Troy Miles
Susan Moss
Kevin Trager – Mayor’s Designee
Joshua Watkins

Members Absent

Secretary Lindy Casebier
Kevin Fields
Ted Nixon
Kerry Stemler
Purna Veer
President Markus Winkler (excused
absence)

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Jennifer French
Ken Herndon
Bill Meyer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:00 p.m. on December 6, 2023. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes for the October 25, 2023 meeting were approved.

Executive Director's Report:

Deborah Bilitski announced the appointment of Secretary Casebier to the board.

Deborah also reminded the board of the holiday gathering at Pig Beach on Friday, December 8th, WDC staff and Friends of the Waterfront board will also be attending.

Development/ Fundraising

Ashley Smith gave an update to the board on end of year giving and the progress towards the Board and Employee Match Campaign. Susan Moss requested that Ashley reach out to each board member individually to update them on their current annual giving and if they have open pledges.

Festival Plaza Murals

Ken Herndon presented to the board the plans to revamp the concrete restroom buildings in Festival Plaza with vinyl wraps that will feature the work of 18 talented local artists. Ken would oversee raising remaining funding for the project and a select committee of WDC staff and board members would have final approval of the artwork chosen.

Joshua Watkins motioned for WDC staff to continue to pursue the project feasibility and the board approved the motion unanimously.

Presentation of FY 2023 Audit

Bill Meyer with LBMC, formerly Strothman and Company, gave a review of the FY23 Audit. WDC received a clean audit opinion.

Phase IV Update

Deborah updated the board on Phase IV progress, the team is still waiting to hear the outcome of the ORLP submission for federal funding. The Mackin Family Foundation has pledged \$100,000 for Phase IV.

Deborah presented the construction progress of Play Port and latest schematic renderings of the design.

Events

Catie Nelson gave a recap of the 2023 event season. Waterfront Park hosted 183 events from 67 different organizations. There were 93 days of programmed Big Four Bridge lightings from 41 different organizations, and we had 38 riverboat dockings, 26 fireworks displays, and 10 commercial filming events.. Overall, there were 350 different events/activations that took place in the park in 2023.

Park Maintenance

Gary Pepper gave an update on the paver project and the progress made in the Festival Plaza, Big Four Lawn, and a few other miscellaneous areas where trees are being replaced.

Belle of Louisville Riverboats

Krista Snider gave an update for Belle of Louisville Riverboats. Gross revenue and gross profit are up 16% - 17% compared to FY23. Expenses are down 3% over last year too. Passenger numbers are 9% better than last year, which was 30% better than 2019.

Currently, in the selection process for a General Contractor to make repairs of the Mary Miller and Broaddus. Mary Miller is back from the shipyard and the interior designers are at work. Remaining events for 2023, sold out Cookies with Capt. Santa, Steamboat Supper cruises and NYE event.

2024 calendar will be available for booking this month. New events: Admiral's Dinner, Sunday Funday, Riverboat Gambler, Bourbon-focused cruise. In 2024 kid's cruises will be included in the annual pass.

Friends of the Waterfront

Joshua Watkins discussed the plan for Friends of the Waterfront board to make annual contributions to Waterfront Park now that the Hot Brown Showdown event has completed a second successful year. The board is also looking to replace their open Treasurer position.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.