



**MINUTES**

**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 24, 2024**

**Members Present**

Inga Arvin - Virtual  
Oliver Barber - Virtual  
Marianne Butler - Virtual  
Terri Connolly  
Kevin Fields - Virtual  
Chris Jones  
Troy Miles  
Susan Moss  
Ted Nixon  
Kerry Stemler  
Kevin Trager – Virtual  
President Markus Winkler - Virtual

**Members Absent**

Secretary Lindy Casebier (excused absence)  
Purna Veer (excused absence)  
Joshua Watkins (excused absence)

**Staff Present**

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

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:03 p.m. on April 24, 2024. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes for the February 28, 2024 meeting were approved.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

Deborah Bilitski gave the following updates:

- The annual Boat Race party, Calliopes & Cocktails is next Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, all board members have been invited to attend.
- Waterfront Park was voted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Riverwalk through the USA Today 10Best online voting contest.
- We were not approved for state funding of operations support.
- The mayor's budget address is tomorrow.
- The paver project under I65 is complete. This project was funded by Louisville Tourism.

## **Events**

Catie Nelson gave an update on events. We hosted our first Bark and Brunch of the season. The event series has relocated to Pig Beach BBQ which has helped the event logistically and financially. Waterfront Wednesday begins tonight. Kroger Fest-a-Ville and Chow Wagon begins this week and there will be two nights of the Balloon Glow. Visit our website for a full list of our events.

We had a successful Solar Eclipse Party. We also have had great success with our Bridge Lighting program and Pig Beach BBQ has agreed to host Supporter Nights where nonprofits can host an event at the restaurant the night of their bridge lighting and a percentage of sales from that night will be donated back to the hosting organization.

We are currently planning this year's Fourth of July celebration. This year's event will be at the Big Four Lawn and we're producing a talent show with auditions leading up to the holiday.

## **Belle of Louisville Riverboats**

Krista Snider gave an update on Belle of Louisville Riverboats. Numerous cruises had to be canceled due to high water levels. The first cruise of the season was today. The Belle celebrates its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with Riverboat Gambler event on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Financials**

Cordell Lawrence presented the third quarter financials. Specific mention of Foundation requests to improve the technical capabilities of our boardroom in the amount of \$30,000. Cordell made note that although we have good financial results and our budget reflects, we are \$1.2 million ahead, that we are collecting \$931,000 in interest on Phase IV capital which will not be there as we further complete that expansion.

## **Park Maintenance**

Alex Laughlin reported on park maintenance projects. The ramp light renovation along the Big Four Bridge is complete. The crew removed 34 light poles, repaired, and reinstalled each one, all this work was done in-house. The crew also completed the new trees, sod, and installed new lighting on Festival Plaza.

## **Development/ Fundraising**

Ashley Smith announced the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign. We will be executing direct mail and electronic appeals to raise funding for annual operations. Ashley gave an update on the Board Member Challenge grant, 80% of board members have donated to help us reach our goal of 100% staff and board participation.

## **Phase IV Update**

Deborah updated the board on the latest progress with Phase IV. Our ORLP grant was approved for \$10 million. Construction proceeds with major development and media interest. Contact Deborah for a tour of the site.

Ted Nixon gave an update regarding engagement of donor conversations to close the gap on funding. Continuing Norfolk/Southern conversations for land acquisition.

## **Friends of the Waterfront**

Emily Clayton reported on updates of Friends of the Waterfront in Joshua Watkin's absence. Event planning for Hot Brown Showdown is underway. Friends Board Members are extremely helpful in providing volunteer time at various Waterfront Park events such as Waterfront Wednesday.

Waterfront Park has also launched the Green Team volunteer project and corporate Days of Service. We've partnered with Concerted to offer volunteer opportunities in the park in exchange for tickets to concerts, for instance, Gazebo Fest on Memorial Day Weekend.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.