



**MINUTES**

**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 26, 2024**

**Members Present**

Inga Arvin  
Oliver Barber - Virtual  
Marianne Butler - Virtual  
Chris Jones  
Troy Miles  
Joshua Watkins

**Members Absent**

Secretary Lindy Casebier  
Terri Connolly  
Kevin Fields  
Susan Moss  
Ted Nixon  
Kerry Stemler

Kevin Trager  
Purna Veer  
Markus Winkler

**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 4:08 p.m. on June 26, 2024. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

No Quorum, April minutes to be reviewed at the August meeting.

## **Events**

Catie Nelson gave an update on events. Gazebo Festival went well despite the event needing to cancel the second day of the event due to severe weather. Friends of Waterfront Park hosted Sailing Into Summer at the beginning of June in the Brown Forman Amphitheater. The event had about 500 people in attendance and netted \$12,000. Kentuckiana Pride Festival welcomed 25,000 people to their event mid-June with headliner, Chappell Roan.

Waterfront Wednesday is scheduled for tonight, the Kentucky Craft Bash will be in the Festival Plaza this weekend, and the Waterfront Park Fourth of July celebration at the Big Four Lawn next week.

## **Development/ Fundraising**

Ashley Smith gave an update on development. We reached 100% participation of staff and board to receive the anonymous match for the WDC Board Challenge Grant. The team continues to do donor cultivation and offer tour opportunities to interested parties. Save the Date for Give for Good Louisville campaign, September 12, 2024.

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

Deborah Bilitski gave the following updates:

- The fiscal year ended successfully, however, interest on Phase IV funding will decrease over time and staff have explored other revenue streams for the park.
- WDC conducted a bid for security services at the park. The committee reviewed several proposals and chose to remain with DRH Security but with amendments to the current agreement.
- This will be Marianne Butler's last meeting as a Board member. Deborah thanked her for all of her contributions to Waterfront Park during her tenure.
- Deborah congratulated Joshua Watkins for winning the primary election for District 42. His appointment will go through the end of the year.
- Deborah also mentioned Inga Arvin's new thrift shop for Love City Inc.

## **Park Maintenance**

Alex Laughlin reported on park maintenance projects. Gary Pepper has retired, and Alex Laughlin has been promoted to Director of Maintenance. The maintenance crew is working hard through the event season to keep the park beautiful. The mound in the Adventure Playground was repaired. The crew is working to get the mud cleared off of the steps at the docks of the Brown Forman Amphitheater. Great Lawn to be restored by October. Big Four Lawn has taken on a lot due to event programming and will get a much-needed break after the Fourth of July event. Weighing options for lighting along River Road, electric vs. solar. Working to resolve issues with high mast lighting on Great Lawn.

The outside crew is made up of seven employees, Alex and Kelley have been working hard to hire more staff to work on the maintenance team, but the current pay rate is a barrier to hiring qualified personnel.

## **Phase IV Update**

Deborah updated the board on the latest progress with Phase IV. Construction progress is moving along, structures are arriving, and education building is nearing completion. Fundraising efforts are an ongoing focus. Staff is still working to formalize the ORLP grant. The Phase IV team continues to attend various community engagement opportunities.

## **Belle of Louisville Riverboats**

Krista Snider gave an update on Belle of Louisville Riverboats. The Broadus roof peeled off during the previous night's storm. FEAT sensory kits paid for by a Hardscuffle grant. There was a delayed start to the season due to high waters. The Belle has a new ad and a promotion for their summertime cruises. Continuing capital projects including work on the Broadus.

## **Friends of the Waterfront**

Joshua Watkins updated the board on the outcome of the Sailing Into Summer event and planning is underway for the fall event, the Hot Brown Showdown.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.