



**MINUTES**

**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 28, 2024**

**Members Present**

Secretary Casebier – Virtual  
Terri Connolly  
Kevin Fields  
Chris Jones  
Troy Miles – Virtual  
Susan Moss  
Ted Nixon  
Kerry Stemler  
Kevin Trager  
Joshua Watkins  
Markus Winkler – Virtual

**Members Absent**

Inga Arvin  
Oliver Barber  
Purna Veer

**Staff Present**

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

**Others Present**

Laura Ferguson

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:03 p.m. on August 28, 2024. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes from April 24, 2024 and June 26, 2024 meetings were approved.

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

Deborah Bilitski gave the following updates:

- Introduction of pending appointment to the board, Kris Kiser, CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute and the TurfMutt Foundation.
- Reappointments of Ted Nixon and Kerry Stemler to the board after Thursday, September 5, 2024.
- Invitation to the board to attend Waterfront Park Place 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- Announcement of partnership with MSD, Louisville Metro Arts and Creative Industries office and Waterfront Park to install a new mural on the flood wall at 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance into Waterfront Park. Deborah offered participation in the selection committee to the board, Kevin Fields and Susan Moss volunteered to be involved.

## **Events**

Catie Nelson gave an update on events. Waterfront Wednesday was canceled in June, moved to Headliners in July. Tri Louisville took place in the park, and we welcomed new events Big Stomp, Heritage Fire, and Sky Soul Festival. Coming up we have Ironman 70.3, Fleur de Flea on Labor Day weekend, Mayor's Hike, Bike and Paddle, Big Four Arts Festival, numerous charity walks and Louisville Food and Wine Experience in October.

## **Financials**

Cordell Lawrence provided a review and highlights of the FYE 2024 financials. Cordell highlighted the \$1 million accrued interest from Phase IV funding and asked for the board to consider the approval of moving the funds to the Foundation.

The board motioned to approve, the motion was seconded, and the board unanimously approved the movement of transfer of \$1 million from the WDC Fund into the Foundation.

## **Park Maintenance and Foundation Request**

Alex Laughlin reported on park maintenance projects. We have two new employees working outside. High mast lights have been reverted to our old system since the Wi-Fi connection has been faulty. We hosted a major volunteer event with Humana and about 600 volunteers completed various tasks throughout the park in August. The outside finger of the Harbor Docks

has been removed as it presented safety concerns, and this will allow us to open the docks for events and the occasional transient docking. The Overlook is undergoing a major renovation thanks to funding from the Humana Foundation.

There are eight projects included in this year's Foundation Request. Replacement of the shop building's roof, swing garden restoration, resurface the yellow parking lot, refurbishment of the upper and lower pass walking paths, reseal the parking lot across from the restaurant building, build concrete crescent on the corner of the entrance of Big Four Bridge for vendor space, build metal enclosure around the Blue Lot dumpster, and equipment requests.

Kerry Stemler motioned to approve, Joshua Watkins seconded, and the board unanimously approved the Foundation Request.

### **Development/ Fundraising**

Ashley Smith gave a presentation on the goal for 2024's Give for Good campaign.

### **Phase IV Update**

Deborah Bilitski invited the board for hard hat tours of the site. Deborah also gave an update on the ORLP grant process. Ted Nixon gave an update regarding the Norfolk Southern property.

### **Belle of Louisville Riverboats**

Krista Snider gave an update on Belle of Louisville Riverboats. Numerous customers that have parked near the Belle have experienced car break-ins; one car has been stolen. The Broaddus goes to the shipyard in November. Relaunching of the legacy program. Capital improvement projects underway for Broaddus and Mary Miller.

FY 2024 ended with a deficit of \$200,000. Flooding and severe weather caused a late start to the season which resulted in a loss of revenue.

Coming up the Belle celebrates its 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. Riverboat Gamblers, Rogues & Ne'er do wells in October. "Poe - Dream within a Dream" cruises return by popular demand this October. Admiral's Dinner is set for September.

### **Closed Session**

Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (b) and (c), the Board entered closed session at 5:19 p.m. to discuss prospective litigation.

No formal vote or action was taken, and the Board resumed open session at 5:51 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.