



MEETING MINUTES

Quick called the meeting to order at 8:34am and welcomed members, city staff and guests. Members present: Randy Quick, Kelli Duncan, Megan Watters, Elaine Abercrombie, Tayesha Lytle, and Harry Brock. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Julie Harris, Doug Walker, and Kelley Parker. Guests present: David Crowder and DJ Rickman.

ACTION

Approve December 2022 Minutes – Duncan pointed out a small grammatical error. Staff will fix. All approved.

Approve BID Financials – Promotions account currently sits just over \$45,000. Design account currently sits at just over \$80,000. Lytle asked when BID tax funds will be added to the budget for 2023. Per Lesley, the first influx will be in April and the second will be November. Watters made a motion to approve. Duncan seconded. All approved.

Vote on 2023 BID Budget – Edits were made to the 2023 BID budget based on the board's feedback during the December 2022 meeting. Line items were added for the DDA awards show, River District improvements, and site visits. Additional funds were added to façade grants, median plants, First Friday concert series, Fiddlin' Fest, and Christmas décor. Watters questioned why Christmas décor was listed under 'Promotions'. Per Lesley, this is based on requirements from the BID management plan. Lytle questioned if any funds needed to be considered for the small business incubator. Per Lesley, funds for the incubator will come from the city, not from BID funds. Brock questioned if BID funds were being used for items that the city should already be providing, i.e., police presence for First Friday concerts, etc. Per Lesley, funds are used to pay police officers at events but the vast majority goes toward funding the events. Lytle made a motion to approve the 2023 BID budget. Watters seconded. All approved.

Vote on 2023 Work Plan – The goals previously listed on the work plan were not overhauled. Goals that were achieved have been removed. Lesley stated that the current goals are long term and believes they will begin to come to fruition in 2023. Watters questioned River District improvements being removed from the Design committee goals. Per Otwell, this was accidentally removed and will be added back onto the work plan. Duncan suggested that temporary crosswalks would be a great addition to the River District, as current conditions are unsafe. Duncan made a motion to approve. Abercrombie seconded. All approved.

Trendy Teacher Façade Grant – Trendy Teachers requested façade grant funds for new signage. The Design committee recommended \$1,000. Total project cost was \$3,000. Lytle asked if Trendy Teachers had requested façade grant funding in their previous location. Per Lesley, no. Brock questioned if the signage met HPC requirements. Per Lesley, their location is not considered historic and is not required to meet HPC guidelines. Brock made a motion to approve. Lytle seconded. All approved.

Election of 2023 Officers & Committee Chairs – The city commission seat will be changing. Per Quick, that should be appointed within the next month. The county commission seat will now be filled by Rhonda Wallace. Lesley asked members to nominate or volunteer for each seat – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Design Committee Chair, Parking Committee Chair, Business Development Chair, and Promotions & Outreach Chair. Kelli Duncan volunteered to stay on as the Parking Committee Chair. Abercrombie volunteered as the Promotions & Outreach Chair. Lesley recommended Rickman as the Business Development Chair. Lesley asked that all members email her their nominations by Friday, January 13. If no nominations are received, then Lesley will appoint the positions and the board will vote at the February 2023 meeting.

DISCUSSION

2023 Meeting Dates – Members reviewed the meeting dates for 2023. There were no questions or discussion.

2023 Merchant Mornings – Bailey-Bowers gave a brief update for the 2023 Merchant Mornings. May and August are currently still open. Abercrombie stated that Greene's Jewelers will host the August Merchant Morning. Bailey-Bowers will provide an updated 2023 calendar at the February meeting.

Committee Update – N/A

Staff Reports –

- Lesley announced that DDA staff will be moving to the Milner Building located on the backside of the Chamber of Commerce. Lesley also shared that Downtown Rome has been accepted into the Georgia Placemaking Initiative, a 2 year program focused on placemaking and public art.
- Otwell stated that members will be getting new headshots and spotlights at the next meeting. Otwell is working on 2023 sponsorships.
- Harris updated members on current Parking Services happenings. Updates included a recent court appearance for frequent violators, considering a towing ordinance, kiosks not working, signage updates, and seeking new committee members.

Other/Adjourn – Duncan asked about bids for the small business incubator. Lesley shared that 3 bids were received and were significantly lower than the original bid received. There will be a Bid Review Committee put together. Duncan expressed interest in being a part of that committee. **Quick called to adjourn at 9:27am.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey-Bowers