



ROME DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

February 10, 2022

Carnegie

607 Broad Street

MEETING MINUTES

Prusakowski called the meeting to order at 8:34 am and welcomed members and city staff. Members present: David Prusakowski, Megan Watters, Elaine Abercrombie, Bryan Shealy, Tayesha Lyttle, Randy Quick and Allison Watters. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Doug Walker, Kelley Parker, and Meredith Ulmer.

ACTION

January 2022 Minutes – The group briefly went over last month's minutes. Shealy made a motion to approve January 2022 minutes. Abercrombie seconded. All approved.

BID Financials – January statements had not yet been received, so there were no updates on BID Finances. There will be an update in March's Board meeting.

2022 BID Budget – BID is expected to bring in \$110,000 in 2022. Lesley stated that money was moved from Arts Fest budget to the budget for Façade Grants and Marketing Grants. Prusakowski asked about increase on individual marketing grant. Lesley said they would now be for \$1,000 as opposed to \$500 given in 2021. Shealy made a motion to approve the changes. M. Watters seconded. All moved to approve.

Façade Grant: The Early Way – The Early Way has decided to change their façade design by taking down the awnings. Design committee will need to review again. Vote on this grant has been moved to the March meeting.

DISCUSSION

River District Update – Lesley gave an update on the River District improvements. Water sewer improvements have started. 6 inch lines are being upgraded to 12 inch lines. It's expected to be finished by summer 2022, then street scape improvements can begin. Planning/Engineering grant to help fund was applied for but denied. There are plans to reapply once it opens again. Lytle stated that signage, specifically detour signs, around the current construction is lacking. Parker said she will reach out to the street department to take care of this.

Committee Reports – Design committee: M. Watters gave an update on the Gateway project. Another design drawing is being done as the committee did not feel the original rendering matched the aesthetic of downtown Rome. Lytle gave a brief update on Outreach. Merchant Mornings has changed, and the first in January at Honeycream was a success.

Staff Reports – Otwell presented the downtown Art Contest to the committee. This will collect art from local students that will be displayed throughout downtown. Bailey presented another public art project being worked on, Windows of Opportunity. This project will have local artists paint windows of vacant buildings downtown. Both projects will be displayed through the Arts Fest in May. Lesley spoke about Mobilize Main Street visitors coming to town at the end of March. This will bring Main Street professionals from across Georgia to visit and tour downtown Rome. Lesley asked the committee for recommendations for businesses to donate to the swag bags for visitors. A. Watters suggested reaching out to Kellogg and Summit Hills. Lesley also gave an update on the business incubator project. It is still in the very early stages, but ideas are coming together for the business plan.

Other/Adjourn – A. Watters gave an update on the county amphitheater project. M. Watters asked when the Forum would be open for events. There is currently not an update on that. Meeting adjourned at 9:16am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey