



MEETING MINUTES

Quick called the meeting to order at 8:33 am and welcomed members, city staff and guests. Members present: Megan Watters, Elaine Abercrombie, Bryan Shealy, Tayesha Lytle, Randy Quick and Connie Sams. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Doug Walker, and Meredith Ulmer. Guests: Larry Dolan, Missy Gomez, Alli Mitchell, RN-T staff

ACTION

DDA Board Resignation and Nomination – Sams put in her recognition, as she will be moving out of Rome. Lesley recommended Kelli Duncan to the board. Duncan currently serves on the Parking Committee. The plan is to have Duncan on board by May 2022. Abercrombie made a motion to accept the recommendation. Watters seconded. All voted in approval.

February 2022 Minutes – The group briefly went over last month’s minutes. Shealy made a motion to approve February 2022 minutes. Watters seconded. All approved.

BID Financials – Promotions account is currently sitting at around \$43,000. Design account sits at around \$87,000. With Arts Fest coming up, there will be funds pulled from the BID budget. No questions from board. Shealy motioned to approve financials. Lytle seconded. All approved.

Downtown Impact Grant Application – Otwell gave a brief review of the Impact Grants that the Promotions committee voted on. \$6,000 in total was granted to 7 organizations. 5 will be receiving \$1,000 each, and two will be receiving \$500 each. Abercrombie made a motion to approve. Shealy seconded. All approved. Lytle asked how the money will be presented to the organizations. Per Lesley, there will be photo ops with each organization with the giant check and a press release.

Façade Grant: The Early Way – Watters gave an overview of the façade grant for The Early Way. Original request was for signage on windows and new awning. The Early Way made the decision to get rid of the awning, so the new request was for signage only. Design committee approved \$325 for signage. Lytle motioned to approve. Abercrombie seconded. All approved.

DISCUSSION

United Way Presentation – All Mitchell with United Way gave a presentation on Rome’s homeless population. Resource guides and data packets were handed out to all attendees. Mitchell made a big push for United Way’s local resource phoneline, as this is how they collect data while also helping those in need. Walker made a comment that the current wait list at the Housing Authority is over 800. Quick suggested that a business card with United Way number be handed out to those in need. Per Mitchell, this card exists but has not been printed. Lytle asked about 211. Per Mitchell, this is no longer in use in our area. The costs were not justified and at one point it was outsourced to the Dalton phone center, so anyone that called only received information pertaining to the Dalton area. Lesley asked if there was a way to help the homeless during inclement weather. Per Mitchell, Salvation Army offers “white flag nights” for these situations. Mitchell also suggested calling her cell phone if there were ever a need.

Committee Reports – Business Development’s monthly meetings will now be meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month. Outreach update – working on surveys for First Fridays and “doggy days” downtown.

Staff Reports – No reports.

Other/Adjourn – Quick called to adjourn the meeting at 9:35am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey