



ROME DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

August 11, 2022

Carnegie

607 Broad Street

MEETING MINUTES

Quick called the meeting to order at 8:38 am and welcomed members, city staff and guests. Members present: Randy Quick, Megan Watters, Elaine Abercrombie, Tayesha Lytle, and Allison Watters (via Zoom). City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Julie Harris, Kelley Parker, and Doug Walker. Other: Brandon Cook (Water & Sewer), Barbara Reeves (Courtyard), and Elaina Beeman.

ACTION

Approve July 2022 Minutes – Abercrombie made a motion to approve with a second from Megan Watters. All were in favor.

Approve BID Financials – Abercrombie made a motion to approve with a second from Megan Watters. All were in favor.

Façade Grants – Members reviewed applications for 307/309/311 Broad Street, 106/108 Broad Street, and 300 N. 5th Avenue. 307/309/311 Broad will be working on the back façade of the buildings and adding a balcony, approved by HPC. Design committee approved \$6,000 for this project. 106/108 Broad will be adding plain black awnings. Design committee approved \$2,000 for this project. 300 N. 5th Avenue will be getting an overhaul which will include paint, lighting, replacing windows and doors. Design committee approved \$3,000 for this project. Abercrombie made a motion to approve all three grants with a second from Watters. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION

River District Updates – Brandon Cook with the Water and Sewer Department presented to the board with current updates. New water service connections are wrapping up by the end of September. They will also be putting in new sewer mains at three different locations in the alley and on Bale Street. They have amended the plan to an 8" water main to minimize interruption to the River District merchants. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. The sewer improvements on North 5th will take place after the holiday season so as not to impact peak shopping season for the businesses. Lesley shared comments made by River District merchant, Nedra Manners. Manners stated that the crews from Water and Sewer have been extremely friendly and helpful, even watering her flowers when the water was not in service. Lesley shared the conceptual streetscape designs but reminded everyone that the designs have not been finalized. The current plans are to have parking on each side of North 5th Ave with a 7.5' sidewalk space and a 5' buffer designated for planters, benches, etc that would be pedestrian friendly and ADA accessible. Lytle asked about paving after sewer improvements and future streetscape improvements. Per Cook, there is immediate paving going on but with a material that is temporary but sturdy. Everything will be repaved once the streetscape is done. Lytle asked if these improvements would lead to costs of water and sewage going up. Per Cook, this will not affect billing. Lytle asked if the roads would be repaved after the water and sewer improvements are made. Cook said they are being temporarily patched so the roads are functional, but that total repaving would likely coincide with the streetscape project. Lesley thanked the Water Department for the sign on Turner McCall drawing attention to the businesses and said staff will continue to push out information as it comes available. Abercrombie gave input on the trees that are chosen for the streetscape project and ask that they not be the star of the show like the trees on Broad Street.

Board Member Handbooks – Each board member was given a new handbook. This handbook will act as a guide for all things DDA. Bailey reviewed each section with members. Lesley reviewed details of the Board Member Agreement and asked members to read through the handbook, sign the agreement and bring back to the September meeting.

Staff Reports –

- Otwell shared that International Park(ing) Day is coming up on September 16. Businesses are invited to transform parking spaces in front of their business into a creative parklet space.
- Otwell gave an update on the upcoming Fiddlin' Fest, October 8. Currently have 85 craft vendors and 15 non-profits signed up.
- Harris shared that Parking Services will be doing a pilot program of "\$2 Deck Days" every weekend in September, beginning September 9. Volunteers will be needed.

Other/Adjourn – Quick called the meeting to adjourn at 9:23am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey