

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024
McBrayer

Present Board Members: Bryanna Carroll, Juan Castro, James Frazier, Beverly Fortune, Councilmember Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Mary Quinn Ramer, Rachel Savane, Ron Tritschler, Lawrence Wetherby

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Allen McDaniel (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Laura Farnsworth (Downtown Lexington Partnership) Mary Ford McGlaun (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Liza Betz (Failte) Laura Boison (LEXPARK), Kate Savage (Arts Connect)

Call to Order

Chairman J. Frazier called the meeting to order with quorum at 8:32a.

Approval of September 11 Board Minutes

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the minutes. H. LeGris seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Updates

J. Casto provided the financial update. This is the lowest point in the balance each year as revenue from property tax is just starting to be collected. Expenses related to the reauthorization start adding up in line 6900, and are budgeted. Overall, expenses are less than budgeted thus far. All budget lines are stable, and doing better than FY23. Security expenditures are growing, but are nothing to be concerned about.

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the financials and budget, R. Tritschler seconded the motion. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Advisory Board

Downtown Lexington Partnership will advertise for Advisory Board positions on the DLMD social media channels and e-newsletter regularly through December. A Jotform application has been created to gather relevant information from interested parties.

Community Partner Updates

L. Boison provided an update on LexPARK. They have entered in a 79 year lease on the parking lot located off Second Street near Short Street. Updates to the lot will begin soon.

MQ. Ramer provided an update on VisitLEX. Lexington saw a busy fall, with hotel occupancy increasing over previous years. They hosted a meeting planners blitz with 25 guests and received 3 RFPs from that project. VisitLEX also earned significant media with 900+ placements.

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A. McDaniel provided an update on Downtown Lexington Partnership. The Rink at Triangle Park is open for the season, and several other holiday events are scheduled for December.

Block-by-Block Report

D. Warren provided an update on the Ambassadors. Operational hours for the Ambassadors will shift slightly with the season change, ending at 7:00pm on weekends. Block by Block is also introducing a new system to track activity from the Ambassadors, a summary of which is include in each meeting's packet.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Frazier called upon B. Fortune to provide an update on the District recertification. The petitions have been sent, with a 10-year recertification term. There are 528 parcels with taxpaying status. 265 petitions are needed, 78 have been received to date. Commissioners have been asked to make contacts and encourage signatures. \$284M in value is needed to reach the 51% threshold. There was a small map error on the original petition, and a new map is being sent to property owners.

Property Improvement Grants

The Property Improvement Grant committee has made the following recommendations for approval: The Greenery/The Grove - \$1,000. Savane Silver - \$4,500. The Omni/Melroy Building - \$4,500. Uncarved Stone - \$2,000. T. Pettitt made a motion to approve, H. LeGris made a second, R. Savane abstained from the vote, and the motion passed.

LFUCG Update

Councilmember H. LeGris provided an update from City Hall. Following the recent election, 5 new council members will begin in January. They will need to be educated on the DLMD and what it does for Downtown. Additionally, the Fund Balance conversation occurred in October, giving funds to many, including city hall, and a downtown master plan. Steps the plan include defining the parameters of downtown, and determining implantation tools.

2025 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Frazier proposed the 2025 meeting schedule as the following: Jan 8, Mar 5, May 7, Jul 2, Sep 3, Nov 5. R. Tritchler made a motion to approve the schedule. J. Castro seconded the motion. The schedule was approved unanimously.

With the work of the board complete, the meeting was concluded at 9:35a. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on January 8 at McBrayer.