

Downtown Lexington Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
McBayer

Present Board Members: Dougie Allen, Bryanna Carroll, Juan Castro, James Frazier, Beverly Fortune, James Brown, Hannah LeGris, Thomas Pettit, Rachel Savane, Ron Tritchler

Others Present: David Warren (Block-By-Block), Allen McDaniel (Downtown Lexington Partnership), Laura Farnsworth (Downtown Lexington Partnership) Laura Boison (LEXPARK)

Call to Order

Chairman J. Frazier called the meeting to order with quorum at 8:30a.

Approval of January 8 Board Minutes

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the minutes. J. Castro seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Updates

J. Castro provided the financial update. A small amount of tax revenue was collected, and the total is within the budgeted amount. YTD as of February 28, a little over \$18,000 of the budgeted \$20,000 for the DLMD recertification project has been spent.

Compared to last year, revenue looks to be ahead, however in March of 2024 \$32,000 was collected late, with consideration of that timing, revenue is as scheduled for the budget this year. There is also a \$50,000 grant from the City of Lexington, earmarked for security, that was not received in 2024. On the expense side, Additional Security is behind budget, due to late invoicing from the security provider, Fayette Co. Sherriff. Future reports will balance once these invoices are received.

J. Castro introduced a new layout for the Budget: Current Month v. Year. This format will allow the Board to see what revenue is budgeted and yet to be spent or allocated. Additional funding is available in both the Downtown Art Project and Downtown Improvement Grant lines. The difference in YTD Actual vs Annual Budget for Downtown Improvement Grants is \$16,000.

J. Castro provide an update on the high yield savings account process, approved at the January meeting. The process is underway, with next steps being to identify a bank within the district, and have Chairman J. Frazier sign the agreement to open the account.

T. Pettit made a motion to approve the financials, B. Fortune seconded the motion. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Advisory Board

Following an examination of 16 applications for the DLMD Advisory Board, the Executive Committee proposes the following individuals join the Advisory Board: Diane Massie, Fausto D Sarmiento, and Liza Betz. J. Brown made a motion to approve the proposed slate, T. Pettit seconded the motion. The Advisory Board slate was approved unanimously. The new Advisory Board members will be invited to meetings starting in May.

Community Partner Updates

L Boison provide an update on LexPARK. They are currently undergoing enhancements to their properties, which include new signage.

A. McDaniel provided an update on Downtown Lexington Partnership. The Annual Meeting will take place at Marriott City Center Friday, March 7. DLMD will have a place in the program with Chairman J. Frazier speaking. Additionally, the 30th anniversary season of Thursday Night Live will begin on April 3, with a date recognizing DLMD Ambassadors to be announced later in the year.

Block-by-Block Report

D. Warren provided an update on the Ambassadors. They continue to respond to concerns, including reassigning staff to areas where requests have been made, including LexArts and The Greenery. March will be a busy month with three weeks of basketball attendees at Rupp Arena, staff are being scheduled later Thursday – Saturday. They are equipped with maps and smiles.

Chairman's Report

Chairman J. Frazier announced that goals for recertification have been reached. 51% of property owners representing at least 50% of the property value have signed the petition to renew the District for 10 years. The signed petitions will be sent to LFUCG for certification, and a date will be set for Chairman Frazier to present to LFUC Council for their approval of the ordinance.

LFUCG Update

Councilmember Hannah LeGris provide an update from LFUCG. The council is working through budget hearings, with federal funding unknown under the new federal administration. The Downtown Arts Center has opened its third floor of galleries as well as the old Alfalfa space on Main Street – they are looking for artists to exhibit. The Downtown Master Plan continues, it was suggested to invite the Planning Staff to a future DLMD meeting to inform the Board of their work.

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Councilmember James Brown continued the LFUCG update, informing that an RFP for a new City Hall had been released with 3 proposals received. Additionally, a task force has been created working to return a trolley system to downtown. A grant was applied for and was received! The task force includes representatives from LexPark, Lextran, Downtown Lexington Partnership, and VisitLex. Details on the trolley are currently being explored, with an intention to return to service in 2026.

With the work of the board complete, the meeting was concluded at 9:41a. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on May 7 at McBrayer.