

Dimond Improvement Association

Board of Directors Meeting - June 10, 2021

Board Members Present: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Marjorie Jones, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Chris Harper, Alex Park, Lindsey Vontz, Sara Goldwell, Bret Peterson, Erica Perez, Tomasz Finc

Board Members Absent: Victoria Wake and Ben Stein-Lobovits (on leave) Ryan Romaneski, Kevin Whittinghill, Julie Johnson, David Gross

Guests: Matt Napoli (D4), Daniel Swafford (10 minutes)

The meeting was convened at 7:05pm by Chris Harper sitting in as Chair for Ryan Romaneski.

1. Agenda approval.

ACTION: Approve the meeting agenda as presented. (Motion: JoAnn second Jay; in favor, unanimous)

2. Minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from May DIA board meeting. (Motion: Jay; second Bret 8 yeas, 2 abstentions)

3. Treasurer's report. Marjorie shared comparative budgets from last year. Oaktoberfest savings account has been growing year over year, the board should consider how to allocate those funds.

4. District 4 update. Matthew Napoli reports the mayor will share her proposed budget next week. City council meetings on the 17th, 24th, 29th are a good time to share proposed amendments or allocations.

5. For the good of the order. Tomasz would like an update on the Head Royce expansion. Matthew N. reports there is no update, the planner is working through the EIR now.

6. **Oaktoberfest.** Chris reports on Oaktoberfest plans and recommendations from the Economic Development and Finance and Admin committees. These committees recommend “option #2”: A smaller event or series of events using our neighborhood flex streets that will be less intrusive, require less planning, and pose a lower health risk - but will still bring in some funds for the event, maintain event momentum and awareness and signal a future return to normal.

In support of option 2: unanimous

7. **Letter of Support: Norge Cleaners/Blockbuster site.** Bret proposes sending a letter to the city voicing our support for the site cleanup at the corner of Dimond and MacArthur. Chris voiced confusion, recalling this project or similar had already been planned out years ago. Alex asked about the sale of the property, Chris gave some historical context. Tomasz shared the sale listing. Several board members shared Chris’ cautious optimism about real progress being made at this site, but agreed we should continue to push and voice enthusiastic support for this cleanup and eventual development.

ACTION: Send a letter on behalf of the DIA in support of the cleanup as outlined. (Motion: Bret, Seconded Lindsey, unanimous)

8. **Ad Hoc Governance Committee.** Marjorie announced that volunteers were needed to help craft and edit the DIA bylaws. These were last updated in 2017, and are in need of a review for compliance and/or a refresh to reflect changing norms and expectations. The DIA does not currently have official fiscal policies that define our process for managing our bank accounts, requesting checks or reimbursements, determining signatories or signing contracts. Marjorie proposes forming an ad hoc governance committee to tackle these two items over the next six months: 1. Review and refine the DIA’s by-laws and 2. Draft financial policies for the organization.

Chris volunteered.

9. Bank Signatories. The board needs to approve a list of signatories for the DIA's bank accounts at Bank of America and Wells Fargo and the board needs help defining who should be allowed to sign checks on behalf of the organization. Chris suggested that it's important to select board members that are positioned to maintain the integrity of the DIA and the money we handle. Several board members agreed the chair should be one of the signatories and that having a past treasurer makes good sense because they understand the requirements but they're not currently responsible for the balance on the accounts. Chris inquired about who the current signatories are, and no one present could answer with confidence. Several board members acknowledged it would be best to wait until Julie is present to make this decision.

ACTION: (The chair and the past treasurer will be signatories. Motion: Chris - Table until the next board meeting.)

10. KDC Fundraiser. JoAnn reports KDC has raised \$4309.22 as of 6/9/21 (one day before the official fundraiser kickoff). Merchants have contributed \$1800. Plus \$300 in checks and \$2209.22 in credit card donations.

Zandile speaks about the importance of board member tabling and the value of connecting with community members face to face, letting everyone know who we are and spreading the word about who we are and what we do for the neighborhood. KDC needs more volunteers for tabling, specifically on June 26th.

11. CARES Grant Recommendation. Lindsey reports the DIA has been awarded \$15,000 in CARES Act COVID-19 relief funds; the funding is not part of our approved FY22 budget, so we are free to use it as we wish. The EBD Committee proposed offering competitive grants to business or property owners for exterior improvements like facade work, painting awnings, signage or parklets. A match would be requested, but may be waived depending on circumstances. The Admin Committee endorsed the proposal and recommended a minimum initial investment of \$10K. The project also has the support of the DB&PA. We ask that everyone review

the FY22 budget, and want to make a special note that the negative balance reflects the amount we needed to draw from reserves. We have not spent more than about \$35,000 in any of the last 4-5 years, so it's highly unlikely we would need to draw our reserves down that much, if at all.

Marjorie adds that these projects and fund allocation will not necessarily happen right away or all at the same time. Alex wants to clarify that we are not necessarily deciding how to spend this money now, just that we are using it to help the business district in some way and not using it toward reserves.

ACTION: Approve the use of \$10K of the CARES Grant (Motion: Lindsey; second: Bret, unanimous)

12. WIP Reports *(from verbal and written reports)*

Beautification: KDC Fundraiser Committee is meeting to get the fundraiser going; Wednesday's volunteer litter pickup has resumed.

Community Care: Committee will meet to plan our next course of action

Membership and Outreach: Tomasz started collecting our various volunteer lists and will be collating them into one spreadsheet. Committee divided website responsibilities now that Victoria is not on the committee. Next newsletter due date will be June 7th.

Economic and Business Development: Our shopping incentive program is underway and we are actively planning for our first in-person event of the year in the commercial district!

Public Safety: Zoom meeting with Matthew Napoli on 7/2, Policy Director for Councilman Thao's office. We will conduct a street safety survey for the Dimond and share it with Thao's office. Further research needed to determine if 3525 Dimond Ave qualifies as a special project for our CRO to

address.

JoAnn made a plea for someone to take over her role as the CVS ad hoc committee chair. When no one volunteered, Chris said he would recruit Kevin.

Adjournment at 8:40 PM.

Minutes written by Lindsey Vontz

EP
MWJ
KW
VW
TF
CH