



Board of Directors Board Meeting

May 26, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. via ZOOM Meeting App

Present: Don Brown, Beth Kemp, Leanna DiRisio, Tom Turnbull, Andrew Maguire, Marc Johnson, Marty Macdonald, Dr. Moore, Jeff Gillard, Peter Casey, Wesley Bedford

Excused: Derek Geib, Rick Mancuso

Absent: Ted Fortuna, Gil Mulcahy, Patti Pacino, John Roche

Guests: Todd Bender

Call to Order: (8:32 a.m.)

I. Approval of Minutes:

April 28, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes: M. Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by W. Bedford, and approved by all.

II. Chamber Update:

T. Turnbull reported that the Chamber is working with his team on following up with all 500 members during the COVID19 crisis. The Chamber partnered with GCEDC, BDC and BID to host a webinar last week on Health and Safety regulations for businesses that was extremely well attended with 185 people on. The Chamber is hosting another webinar this week Thursday, May 26th at 9AM to talk about reopening phases. They continue to try and list as many businesses as they can on their website that are open or are opening during the current allowed phases. They will be reopening the Chamber of Commerce building next Monday from 8:30-4:30 with one person in the office per day, staggering which employee is working per day, and they continue to utilize the shared work plan for employees and operating.

III. City Update:

Dr. Moore reported that the City of Batavia continues to work on their reopening plans, DPW and Inspection office has reopened in Phase 1 along with City offices requiring that people entering are wearing a mask. The City is hopeful that Public Hearings can resume in June but are still waiting on the Governor for final decision. The mall roof company chosen, Grove Construction, should be resuming work on the roof soon when they are confident to come back to work. Dr. Moore reported on that for the Jackson Square DRI project the committee has met and an RFP for design work will be sent out this month, that the committee will be looking to bring in stakeholders from the community and property owners surrounding the square to discuss the project moving forward and any concerns.

- IV. BDC Update:** A. Maguire reported on a couple DRI project updates: Theater 56 is moving forward and they have hired a construction/project manager to assist with everything needed. The BIF projects are moving forward with some of them looking at completed construction end of June/July. There were 11 projects submitted for the NY Main St Grant and the steering committee for that has come up with offers for 5 of the projects to be financed. Award winners will be announced soon. A. Maguire has also been assisting any businesses with their safety plans and any questions they have regarding the reopening phases and loans.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** W. Bedford reported on the financials for April 2020: Operating Account: \$51,106.10, Events Acct: \$75,292.10, Capital Acct: \$249,910.32. L. DiRisio made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2020, seconded by M. Johnson and approved by all.
- VI. Director Updates**
- B. Kemp reported the hanging baskets went up last Thursday thanks to Fenton Farms and DPW. The Master Gardeners and Jeff Gillard have been assisting with the planning and will be planting the Downtown Planters this week. Bernard from Spectrum has reached out regarding our success on getting permission from all property owners for Wifi. B. Kemp reports that she is still working on finding contacts for all of the property owners on the list to ask their permission and will follow up with the Board on the progress. She noted that the BID promotions committee had already budgeted for a few GVPS ads along with other advertising for events and because those events are now canceled, inquired if we could utilize those funds to offer free promotion for our businesses opening back up. Promotions committee will come up with a plan to bring to the board.
- VII. Vendor Discussion**
- B. Kemp gave a brief background on why she first started researching what other cities were doing in terms of policies for food trucks and other mobile vendors within their downtown districts because of a concern of a few restaurateurs in the BID. She had proposed the question to City Council who kicked it back to BID Board to discuss. D. Brown noted that while we are definitely in support of our BID Businesses and encourage business downtown, that the BID should not be the ones trying to implement city policies and/or enforcing them. D. Brown invited Todd Bender, a local resident and entrepreneur with sons operating a food truck in Batavia, to speak. T. Bender discussed the available research on food truck revenue and traffic draw to a downtown and expressed that any food truck operator with integrity would always be mindful of the approximate distance to a brick and mortar restaurant. He offered up his opinion and was open to ideas on specific feet from an open business, while also offering great insight into the pros of food vendors. D. Brown will create a statement from the BID Board to City of Batavia on our discussion of mobile vendors and their operations in the Downtown.
- VIII. Fall Conference Discussion**
- M. MacDonald suggested hosting a fall conference to promote the positivity and entrepreneurship in our Downtown after coming out of all reopening phases. He suggested a speaker for the series, Nick Sinatra. B. Kemp noted that it would be a great event to bring our business leaders together in a positive way especially after not being able to hold summer events. The board was open to the idea and support B. Kemp planning that for the fall as long as the organization is allowed to hold a large function at that time.

IX. Other

X. Adjournment

J. Gillard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 AM, seconded by L. DiRisio, and approved by all.

Next Meeting will be on ZOOM App Tuesday, June 23rd at 8:30 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Beth Kemp