

SSA #6 Special Meeting

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – 3:00 PM
Moline City Hall
Law Conference Room (2nd Floor/West Wing)
619 16th Street
Moline, IL 61265**

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Peter McDermott, McDermott Construction
Lora Adams, Black Box Theatre
Ajay Singh, Heart of America
Larry Anderson, Moline Glass
Chelsey Hohensee, Metrolink

Board Members Absent:

Mark Roemer, Property Owner

Staff Present:

Geoff Manis
Tara Osborne

Guests:

None

Meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Public Comment

None

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Approval of Minutes

McDermott made a motion to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried and was approved by all members.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – 2020 Budget Review

Manis and Osborne presented the 2020 budgetary numbers for review. Manis reported the City of Moline has had a budgetary freeze since the COVID-19 Pandemic. That freeze includes any salary increases, pay raises or bonuses. Only certain projects were approved to be completed this year but the landscape RFP was one of them. Manis' Main Street certification was to be completed in two years but that is now on hold due to the pandemic. The Commission discussed the importance of keeping downtown occupancy and the continuance of meeting with the businesses and offering up any assistance available to them.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – COVID-19 Update

Manis updated the Board on the events of COVID-19 since their last meeting. During this time, Moline Main Street worked on three big initiatives. In the second week of the Governor's shutdown, the City offered 30 COVID-19 micro loans of \$5,000 each with 1% interest. The funding for this initiative came from the Revolving Loan Fund which is normally offered to businesses as gap financing. Manis was appointed to be the head of this initiative along with Osborne, Alderman Schoonmaker and Alderman Parker. Businesses submitted loan applications to Manis, who would forward them on to the two Aldermen for approval. After approval, they were forwarded on to Osborne and the Finance Department to have the checks printed. The first ten checks from the time council approved the initiative to getting the checks to the businesses was 54 hours. The City will be offering more micro loans soon with funding coming from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program with the CARES Act funding that was received. Next, the City partnered with LiveStories to develop a one stop shop platform for businesses called FORWARD. It is a free online portal that connects local businesses in the City of Moline to a comprehensive list of resources for recovery programs. Manis was appointed as the City staff contact for the portal. The last initiative for Moline Main Street was outdoor dining. Manis was appointed to head an outdoor dining Committee comprised of City staff and alderman. He was able to setup up some pretty unique pop up outdoor dining spots not only within the Moline Centre footprint, but throughout the entire City.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Other Business

Manis reported that he has been looking into a unique and more permanent outdoor dining solution called parklets. He has been working with Edwards Creative to expand this idea and they will be giving a presentation at the Moline Centre Main Street Meeting today. A parklet is an outdoor dining structure that goes in front of business in a parking spot. Today, the presentation will go over the Edwards Creative has put together and what that cost looks like. Manis would like the Main Street Centre to purchase the parklets and then have businesses rent them for the year. The parklets would be installed in the Spring, uninstalled in the Fall and stored over the Winter. So far outdoor dining has been successful and current businesses downtown seem interested in the parklet concept. Following the presentation, Manis will send out the presentation information electronically to the Board. From there, he would like to bring it back as an action item at the next quarterly meeting.

Manis updated the Commission on the events to date with the John Deere Pavilion Trees. The Trees were supposed to be planted in the Spring of this year and then the COVID-19 Pandemic happened. McClintock Trucking & Excavating as well as Corn Crib Nursery ended up shutting down during different points which created a situation where by the time they were prepared, Spring was over so the trees could no longer be planted. Currently, the John Deere Pavilion tree pits have been mulched over and Manis is hoping the trees will be planted this Fall.

Manis also wanted to update the Board on businesses that have closed and opened during COVID-19. Bass Street Chop House is closed indefinitely, as well as, TGI Fridays. Both locations are very attractive and hopefully a new unique restaurant investor can get in those spaces. C & J Collection Boutique opened up, as well as, Catalina Rose which is a woman's boutique. Also, Quad City Arts put up a new mural next to La Primavera.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – Adjournment

McDermott made a motion to adjourn at 3:49 p.m. Adams seconded the motion. Motion was carried and approved by all members.

Respectfully submitted by Fawn Schultz, Community Development Administrative Assistant