



**Moline Centre Main Street Commission
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
4:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020

**Moline City Hall/Teleconference Call
619 16th Street
Moline, IL 61265**

Commission Members Present

Dave Parker, City of Moline (2nd Ward Alderman)
Chelsey Hohensee, Metrolink
Ajay Singh, Heart of America
Lora Adams, Black Box Theater
Amanda Bautista, Café Fresh
Matt Sivertsen, The Planning Center

Commission Members Absent

Michelle Sparkman, Heart of America
Pete McDermott, McDermott Construction

Staff Present

Geoff Manis

Others Present

Wendy Bonilla, Renew Moline

AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Ajay Singh made a motion to call the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Amanda Bautista seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy Bonilla, Operations & Communications Manager, with Renew Moline introduced herself to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020, was made by Dave Parker. Lora Adams seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – COVID – 19 Fundraising Discussion

Manis revisited the popup musicians playing in downtown Moline that was approved back in March, however, nonessential travel was then eliminated shortly after per the Governor's Executive Order halting the idea. Manis would like to bring this back with the idea of it being a fundraising event where the musicians would play at businesses that were closed the entire time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These performances would be streamed live with a link to a GoFundMe page for donations to go directly back to the impacted businesses. Wendy Bonilla from Renew Moline agreed with the fundraising idea. The Commission discussed the idea, social media presence, choosing businesses, choosing musicians, the idea replacing the Thursday Night Summer Concert Series for the time being and discussing with the City's Corporate Counsel.

Matt Sivertsen made a motion to redirect the funds to have popup musicians play in the streets to get musicians in businesses that were directly impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic to create a grassroots social media indirect fundraiser for businesses impacted the most. Amanda Bautista seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Follow-up from Previous Commission Meeting Agenda Items

Manis reported the concrete ping pong and chess tables were delivered and are being staged at Public Works. Now that Illinois is moving into Phase 3, he would like to get them installed at Bass Street Landing. The SSA #6 Board was unable to have a meeting, however, Manis spoke to them individually and they are ready for the two tables to be installed. The SSA #5 Board did have a meeting and are also ready for them to be installed. The Commission wanted to move forward with the installation of the ping pong and chess tables following Manis' discussion with the City's Corporate Counsel.

Manis reported on the delay of the John Deere Pavilion trees. The tree contract was awarded to McClintock Trucking and Excavating to excavate the tree pits and prepare them for the trees. The tree contract was awarded to Corn Crib Nursery. Both businesses had closed at different points in time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both businesses are now open again, and weather permitting, will have the trees in the tree pits on Monday.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – Director's Report

Manis reported that temporary outdoor dining may be coming soon and he wanted to open up a discussion on it with the Commission. People in general will feel more comfortable outdoor dining and it supports the businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic here in Moline.

Renew Moline and the City's Economic Development Department have been discussing this already but he is looking for insight from the Commission members. Dave Parker stated the City Council is open to loosening things up if they can accommodate within the laws. The Commission discussed current regulations with sidewalk seating would be difficult for businesses, business staffing can become an issue and what other states have been doing.

Manis reported the suspension of the Thursday Night Summer Concert Series. SSA #5 helped Manis make the decision. As soon as we are able to have the Concert Series, Manis wants to do it. Also, the flowers are all in the above ground planters and the stage structure and umbrellas at Bass Street Landing were all repainted. The awning on the stage got a tear in the painting process but Sears Awning patched it at no cost to the Moline Centre.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – Other Business

Manis wanted to get any updates from the Commission on anything new they have to report. Manis has been working with the new online platform called FORWARD. It launched 6 days ago to over 3,000 businesses and connects local businesses in the City of Moline to a comprehensive list of resources, such as; grants, loans, credits, offers and local incentives during the COVID-19 pandemic. So far the consensus has been that this platform has been working great for businesses. He also reported there is a new Interim City Administrator, Marty Vanags, who brings a great deal of economic development experience.

Dave Parker reported that there may be some additional US Department of Housing and Urban Development dollars that may be available to businesses in possible micro loans.

Chelsey Hohensee stated the Channel Cat will start May 29th with limited capacity. MetroLink is still trying to navigate this to keep crowding limited.

Matt Sivertsen wanted to remind the Commission about term limits expiring and his last meeting will be the next.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Adjourn

Ajay Singh made a motion to adjourn. Dave Parker seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Fawn Schultz, Community & Economic Development Administrative Assistant.