

**Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of
The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
September 21, 2021
Zoom Video Conference**

The Board of Directors of The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (CID) convened via Zoom Video Conference at noon on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. A quorum of the board was present on the call and an attendance record is attached.

Mr. Pohrer called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed the directors and thanked them for their time. Ms. Cheli noted that there were no members of the public in attendance, nor had any request to speak submissions been received. Mr. Pohrer then noted that the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the August 17, 2021 CID board meeting and the June 30, 2021 CID Financial Statement was ready for board consideration. There were no requests to remove any items from the consent agenda for further consideration, and Mr. Sweeney made a first motion to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Page and unanimously approved by the board.

Mr. Pohrer then turned the meeting presentation over to Ms. McCrary to share her Executive Director update.

Ms. McCrary shared that the CID has recently partnered with Explore St. Louis, STL Made, and Greater St. Louis Inc. to enhance the ground level windows of the Jefferson Arms building along Tucker. With that building awaiting renovations, this project provided a great way to collaborate on art installations that help to improve the pedestrian experience. It was asked if there are other opportunities for similar initiatives in Downtown. The Tucker and Locust parking garage is currently boarded up and would be a good candidate for this project as well as some properties around Kiener Plaza.

Ms. Cherre shared that the CID is partnering with Greater St. Louis Inc. in reintroducing the *Lunchtime Live* series which will be held at the Old Post Office Plaza on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through November 3rd. *Lunchtime Live* provides an opportunity for participants to enjoy live music, food trucks, and good company. The first event was held last Wednesday and was well attended.

Improvements achieved through these projects and events are in line with the results of the Design Downtown STL study that was completed on behalf of the Downtown community in 2020. These projects activate public spaces and enhance the Downtown environment.

Ms. McCrary shared that Mayor Jones has proposed the formation of a *Downtown Engagement and Public Safety Initiative*. Ms. Radcliff, Chair Elect of the CID board, has been asked to join the task force, she will be representing the CID and Stifel. Also invited to join the task force is Ms. Lewis, CID board Secretary; she will be representing the Downtown Neighborhood Association for which she is the Chair of their Board of Directors. The CID has been asked to partner with the City in the first pop-up youth event. Ms. McCrary is excited to have representation on the task force and with the opportunity to partner in hosting events that help achieve public safety goals.

Ms. McCrary welcomed Major Kriesmann to share an update on CID Safety Matters. The Major shared that in addition to Ms. Radcliff and Ms. Lewis, she is also part of the *Downtown Engagement and Public Safety Initiative*. The task force may be meeting weekly with press briefings being held on Mondays. The first press briefing took place yesterday via zoom, goals of the initiative were shared as well as discussion of some of the issues the region is facing. While the group is still tweaking the main goals of the initiative, they will center around communication, special events, and what can be done to make Downtown and St. Louis better. Mayor

Jones shared with the task force that she is committing to an additional 30 officers to Downtown every weekend for the next six weeks with staffing to be reviewed when the weather gets colder and again next spring. The Sheriffs will also continue to be part of the security efforts Downtown. On Saturday nights from about 8:00 p.m. to midnight, special efforts will be made to monitor the large groups of juveniles (ages twelve to sixteen) who have been making 7th and Chestnut/Kiener Plaza their home base. These groups, which may consist of hundreds of youths, can sometimes become overwhelming. Officers will be posted throughout the area bounded by Broadway to 10th Street (east to west) and Pine to Walnut (north to south). Wil Pinkney, Director of Children, Youth, and Families with the Mayor's Office is working on positive events to give the youth something meaningful to do while they are Downtown. Friday and Sunday nights will continue to receive more broad coverage. The Major then addressed some of the recent crimes that have occurred in or near Downtown. City and County officers have collaborated to resolve some recent homicides. SLMPD Officers and detectives also continue to work on the shootings that occurred at 20th and St. Charles.

Major Kriesmann shared that Interco Plaza near St. Patrick center has been cleared of the tent encampment. Most of the people have been placed in temporary housing or have moved to Camp Cole. In closing her safety update, Major Kriesmann shared that the Laclede's Landing has been hosting outdoor concerts that have proven to be positive events for the area.

Ms. Radcliff shared that as a member of the *Downtown Engagement and Public Safety Initiative* she will be meeting with Captain Ron Johnson and members of the Economic Development committee and will share information with the CID board as able.

Ms. Erbs shared safety concerns relayed to her by the owner of UKRAFT Café & Catering. On a recent Saturday evening, a man was shot just outside the café. She noted that the owner's concern was that this could easily have been him or a member of his catering team. Of additional concern is the fact that the café patio has become a place for many unhoused.

Ms. Leverenz asked about NLEC (New Life Evangelistic Center) possibly reopening and the concerns regarding same. Alderwoman Davis responded that it is very unlikely that NLEC will reopen; the building has inspection issues and the work needed is critical and has not been done, and finally the City administration is on top of the needs of the unhoused population and are prepared for the upcoming winter.

This concluded the regular business of the meeting; Mr. Pohrer informed the board that there were legal matters on the agenda to be discussed in closed session. Ms. Theroff made a motion for the board to enter executive session which was seconded by Ms. Ingrassia.

Ms. Cheli performed a roll call vote for the motion; following is the record of the vote:

1. David Bailey - aye
2. Thomas Bergmann -aye
3. Dave Biales - aye
4. Jack Coatar - aye
5. Marlene Davis - aye
6. Donna Erbs - aye
7. Nick Garzia - aye
8. Amrit Gill - no response, microphone muted
9. Patricia Hagen - aye
10. Christine Ingrassia - aye
11. Renee Kriesmann - aye
12. Karen Leverenz - aye
13. LaShana Lewis - aye

14. Margaret McDonald - aye
15. James Page - aye
16. Eddie Pohrer - aye
17. Laura Radcliff - aye
18. David Sweeney - aye
19. Ellen Theroff – aye

At 12:51 p.m., upon completion of the vote, the board entered executive session. At 1:29 p.m., upon conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Pohrer made a motion to use the previous roll call vote to exit executive session and end the board meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Radcliff and unanimously agreed to by the board.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Cheli

The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District Board of Directors
September 20, 2021 Record of Meeting Attendance:

Present

1. David Bailey
2. Thomas Bergmann
3. Dave Biales
4. Jack Coatar
5. Marlene Davis
6. Donna Erbs
7. Nick Garzia
8. Amrit Gill
9. Patricia Hagen
10. Christine Ingrassia
11. Renee Kriesmann
12. Karen Leverenz
13. LaShana Lewis
14. Margaret McDonald
15. James Page
16. Eddie Pohrer
17. Laura Radcliff
18. David Sweeney
19. Ellen Theroff

Not Present

1. Kitty Ratcliffe

Members of the Public and Guests

Katie Jenner (Husch Blackwell)
Scott Hoffman (Anders)
Ron Johnson (Lodestone Solutions)
Lisa Stump (Lashly & Baer)

The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District, Inc. Administrative Staff

Michelle Cheli
Gabrielle Cherre
Kelli McCrary
Tim McDonough