

Joliet City Center Partnership

**Board of Directors
August 11, 2022
8:00 a.m. – In-person**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:06 a.m.

1. Approval of July Minutes

- Jim Roolf motioned to approve.
- Diane Harris seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

2. Approval of July Financials

- Priscilla stated that the account receivable on the balance sheet is the CED's request for CCP expenses from January through June of 2022 SSA funds from the city. Expenses are higher as the profit and loss statement provided is for January through July 2022. Furthermore, there was a nearly \$19,000 expense for the Joliet mural/sign on the Ottawa Street Parking Deck that will be offset by Old National Bank's sponsorship of \$20,000.
- Diane Harris motioned to approve.
- Megan Millen seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

3. Committee Chair Reports

- Marketing
 - Monica provided a recap of Kidz Fest. The event was well organized with over 50 vendors in attendance including food trucks. In spite of the heat, attendance was estimated at about 3,000.
 - Tunes & Brews is also going well. Tickets are now on sale at \$25.
 - Monica highlighted our new "Monster Mash Up" of events in October to be kicked off with Panic at the Plaza. Sponsors are needed for this event. She also stated that we have a decorating contest for Halloween. Deadline to decorate is October 8 in time for the Stone & Steel Spooky 5k. A discussion was had around setting some guidelines for decorating.
 - Monica further discussed our Holiday events including our upcoming Light up the Holidays Parade and the new events that are in planning including a Holiday market. New features include horse-drawn carriage rides and a holiday market.

Name	Present	Absent
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant		X
Susan Bornhofen		X
Mike Brick		X
Monica Cicimov	X	
Valerie Devine		X
David DiLorenzo	X	
Amber Duffy	X	
Diane Harris	X	
Jen Howard	X	
Bryan Kopman	X	
Megan Millen	X	
Sue Moore		X
Mayor Bob O'Dekirk	X	
Doug Pryor	X	
Jim Roolf	X	
Dan Stevenson	X	
Rod Tonelli (Chair)	X	
Denise Winfrey	X	
Garland Mays (on behalf of JBT)		X
Priscilla Cordero (Director)	X	
Vicki Sanchez (E&M Manager)		X
Katie Smith (guest)		X
Eva-Marie Tropper (guest)		X
Cesar Suarez		X

- Vicki is highlighting Melanie LockHart Agency for August in light of Black Business Month “Business Spotlight” and La Villa Restaurant on Collins Streets for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Owners & Managers Association Meeting
 - Dave DiLorenzo provided a recap of our August 4th meeting which took place at Joliet Junior College and introduced Garry Reichert of the Entrepreneur and Business Center. The meeting was well attended with about 40 individuals present. Erick DeShawn also spoke representing the Art Movement
 - The next meeting is scheduled for October 6th at 3:00 and Doug Pryor will be our speaker. More details to come.
- Economic Development Committee did not meet.
- Beautification Committee
 - Megan presented the holiday planter proposal. She also stated that we received a second quote from Illiniscapes to compare pricing. Jen Howard made a motion to approve the expense of the planters. Monica seconded. All aye – motion approved.

4. 69-71 N. Chicago Street Grant Request

- Rod presented this grant. The board requested second quotes and those came back higher. Rod stated we will consider this as one project not two separate buildings and hence cap the amount at \$75,000. The project will include roofing, new windows, demo and replacement of the siding and internal buildout to result in a vanilla box. The plan is currently for a real estate agent office on the 1st floor of one of the buildings and a restaurant in the other commercial 1st floor space. The 2nd and 3rd floors would be apartments. Rod asked for a motion to approve up to a maximum of \$75,000. Jim Roolf made a motion to approve. Diane Harris seconded. All aye – motion approved.

5. HCCVB Spending Request

- Priscilla presented HCCVB’s invoice for \$8,000. Given the short turnaround last October between her starting date and budget submission timelines for the city as well as the need to make some cuts per the Board’s new economic development direction, this was not budgeted for nor was the CCP expecting this invoice as a discussion was not had with the HCCVB. Rod stated that Katie Smith, Economic Development Specialist for the city, is also looking at the HCCVB contract and how all the downtown organizations can potentially come under the city’s contract. Priscilla stated that this year, the CCP has worked closely on some projects with the HCCVB including the Taco Trail app. Megan Millen made a motion to approve \$4,000. Jen Howard seconded. All aye – motion approved.

6. Chair Report

- Rod stated that we have three board member recommendations on the agenda. Dan Stevenson has recommended that Cornell Lurry would take Dan’s seat on the board representing Midland States Bank. Rod requested a motion to approve Cornell Lurry. Jim Roolf made a motion to approve. Denise Winfrey seconded. All aye – motion approved.
- Rod next presented Diana Viveros, new Program Manager for the Latino Economic Development Association. This is LEDA’s first employee. LEDA works with the

Latino business community, provides scholarships to young students, and resources for the community. Rod stated that he and Priscilla met with Diana and recommended we bring her on board. Dave DiLorenzo made a motion to approve Diana to the board. Diane Harris seconded. All aye – motion approved.

- Last, Rod presented Ron Romero with the Illinois Rock & Roll Museum. Rod and Priscilla met with Ron last week and Ron requested to join the board. Megan Millen made a motion to approve Ron to the board. Monica seconded. All aye – motion approved.

7. Staff Report

- Priscilla stated that the Art Movement hosted a sculpture unveiling on July 28th at Juliet's. About 200 attendees were present. Megan Millen, Rod Tonelli and Priscilla all spoke at the event. The event went very well and a raffle for the sculptures is ongoing. An Art Walk is in the planning stages downtown and scheduled for October 15th.
- We have made some changes to CCP committees. Christa Desiderio, City Clerk, has joined the Marketing Committee. Katie Smith will transition to the Economic Development Committee. Rod Tonelli recommended we reach out to Greg Ruddy to request that he join our Beautification Committee.
- Kidz Fest received some media attention in the Herald News and Patch. Both Vicki Sanchez and Priscilla were on WJOL(1340 AM) with Richard Fredrickson, Scott Slocum, and Illinoise (88.7 FM) discussing Kidz Fest, upcoming events, and downtown economic development efforts.
- Priscilla met with Bill and Elina Dimitroulas of Arcas Restaurant Group to discuss the upcoming North Pole Christmas Market and planning of it. Elina has previously hosted a Christmas market and will be partnering with the CCP to assist with vendors and such.
- Priscilla and Vicki met with David Velazquez and Erik Schilling of M&M Bank as they are in the SSA and the CCP has not developed a strong relationship with them. M&M Bank expressed their desire to work more closely with the CCP whether in sponsoring events, helping small businesses in the SSA, or potentially working on a microloan program together.
- Priscilla stated that there is a second round of funding for DCEO's Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant and she will be reviewing the guidelines to see if CCP qualifies and if there is an opportunity to apply.
- Priscilla spoke with a prospect who is interested in the old church on Ottawa Street. Information was provided on CCP grants and other possible financial assistance.
- Melanie Lockhart Farmers Insurance Agency has received approvals for their signage.
- Priscilla reminded everyone that El Camaleon's Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. today and everyone on the board is invited.

8. City Report

- Mayor O'Dekirk stated that the Plaza project is moving forward.
- The Louis Joliet apartment tenants have caused some issues downtown. The City is working with Mike Petry to determine what can be done.
- Rod stated that the city is working on an Advisory Committee for the Plaza and will begin meeting soon.
- City staff and Priscilla had a meeting last week with the Posh Group and the hotel project on Ottawa Street is again moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

- Jim Roolf motioned to adjourn.
- Diane Harris seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.