



CITY OF FRANKLIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

August 10, 2021

Members Present:

Jake Sappenfield	President
Josh DeArmitt	Vice President
Shawn Taylor	Secretary
John Ditmars	Member
Lee Hodgen	Member

Others Present:

Dana Monson	Community Development Specialist
-------------	----------------------------------

Call to Order:

Jake Sappenfield called the meeting to order.

Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum

Approval of Minutes

Lee Hodgen made a motion to approve the July 13th minutes. Josh DeArmitt seconded. Passed unanimously, 5-0.

Old Business

New Business

Economic Development Fees Grant Request – Dana Monson introduced two organizations requesting a grant from the economic development fees collected from abatements. This year's total is \$23,327.69. All but \$1130 was paid in the May disbursement with the remainder being paid out in late summer which will be received in September or October. Requests received are from Franklin Chamber of Commerce and Discover Downtown Franklin in the total of \$24,225, an overage of \$898.

Rosie Chambers presented the Franklin Chamber's request for \$15,725 for the development and marketing of an all-encompassing, inclusive community calendar. It will be a module that hooks in to the chamber website, running for 36 months and highlighting all city government, chamber and community schedules. It will be filterable and have a QR code to easily scan and download with phone. Text updates will be able to be signed up for any or all that is on the calendar.

Mr. Sappenfield asked where there are other communities using this community calendar. Ms. Chambers is not aware of any municipality doing a community calendar of this magnitude. John Ditmars asked how this would be administrated. Ms. Chambers responded that a chamber employee will work with it primarily along with another representative from the city. Mr. Hodgen complimented Ms. Chambers on her written proposal and expressed his opinion that it is a great project.

Jess Giles presented the request from Discover Downtown Franklin. She expressed gratitude for last year's support of the billboard campaign and its growth to include Festival Country's billboard campaign under the leadership of Ken Kosky. DDF's request this year is for \$8500 for an American Sign Language bike rack spelling out Franklin to be installed in the amphitheater area. There will also be a communication board alongside. The price has changed from the original estimate due to a manufacturing misunderstanding. With clarification, the true estimate is approximately \$18,000. Ms. Giles will seek additional grant monies. A sculpture garden is anticipated in the long-term for the amphitheater area, and this would be a functional introduction to this and be part of the trail system in that area.

Mr. DeArmitt asked if without total funding from EDC, did DDF expect to still be able to do the project. Ms. Giles spoke of two other submitted grant applications and her confidence that they will be awarded yet this year. Mr. Sappenfield likes the showcase of these projects to businesses about where their fees have gone. Shawn Taylor asked if someone local had been looked in to do the work. Ms. Giles reported on a conversation she had with Midwest, but Paul was not comfortable with the nature of the work and encouraged Ms. Giles to go with the company she is working with currently. Mr. Sappenfield is on the board of DDF, so abstained from the discussion. Mr. DeArmitt proposed funding the DDF request of \$8500 in full and award the remainder to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hodgen and Mr. Taylor concurred. Mr. Sappenfield asked what the startup would be for both projects. Ms. Chambers stated January 2022 for the community calendar. Ms. Giles is dependent about the remainder of monies from other sources. Ms. Monson explained the county does prefer to disburse monies to an entity and not have it held until a later time. If the project is not funded, DDF could come back with a change of purpose for their project.

Mr. DeArmitt made a motion for funding DDF for \$8500 contingent upon their receipt of full funding or a return to EDC with a modified project proposal and the remainder of \$14,827 going to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hodgen seconded. Passed 4-0 with an abstention from Mr. Sappenfield.

Other Business

Ms. Giles announced Ethos Celebration of the Arts, Canvas Clash and the alley dedication.

Ms. Chambers announced upcoming Color Bash, Biz Bash and this week's chamber meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of September, 2021.

Jake Sappenfield, President

Shawn Taylor, Secretary