



ROME DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 13, 2022

Carnegie

607 Broad Street

MEETING MINUTES

Prusakowski called the meeting to order at 8:34 am and welcomed members and city staff. Members present: David Prusakowski, Elaine Abercrombie, Megan Watters, Randy Quick, Bryan Shealy, Connie Sams and Tayesha Lytle. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Patrick Van Der Horn, Doug Walker, Bekki Fox and Meredith Ulmer. Guests in attendance: Olivia Morley, Larry Dolan

ACTION

December 2021 Minutes – The group briefly went over last month's minutes. Shealy made a motion to approve December 2021 minutes. Abercrombie seconded. All approved.

BID Financials – Lesley gave an overview of current financials. Design currently around \$55,000. Promotions currently at \$43,861. Sams made a motion to approve. Abercrombie seconded. All approved.

2022 Work Plan – Lesley presented the 2022 Work Plan. A few changes including Design's mission statement to add safety and public art. Pedestrian safety and bicycle safety were added to Parking Services. Shealy made a motion to approve. Watters seconded. All approved.

DISCUSSION

2022 BID Budget Draft – No vote on BID budget in January, will be voted on in February. BID revenues will equate to \$107,000 for 2022. Budget changes – taking away money from Art Fest and putting it toward the Downtown Impact Grant. DDA is tossing around ideas for potential revenues, including loft tours, increasing art vendor fees, and sponsorships. Watters asked about Christmas decorations. Lesley stated that those funds do not come from BID. BID budget will be voted on for approval at February DDA Board meeting.

2021 Annual Report – Otwell shared an overview of the 2021 social media numbers. Van Der Horn shared an overview of Parking Services in 2021. Bailey went over a brief review of DDA's 2021 events.

Business Incubator Update – Fox gave an update on the current progress of the incubator project. A plan for renovation will begin soon. There will also be a summit for community partners and investors toward the end of February. Renovation is expected to start sooner than originally planned. Dolan asked if there will be a qualification list for the entrepreneurs. Per Lesley, there is not a list put together yet but there will be one along with a vetting process. Lytle asked if there will be fees. Per Lesley, yes, but those have not yet been determined. Prusakowski asked if employees will be hired to run the incubator. Per Lesley, yes – not in the near future but by the time the incubator is running. Abercrombie asked if the DDA owns the whole building? Yes, all 10,000 sqft. Sams commented that startup is the scariest part of starting a business, anything that can be done to alleviate those fears would be beneficial.

Committee Reports – No Committee Updates. Lesley state that committee interest forms have been put out to the public.

Staff Reports – DDA is working on Town Green improvements. They've applied for a T-Mobile grant in hopes of helping the Town Green improvements. Otwell stated that 2022 events are being worked on, as well as new social media for the River District.

Other/Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:21am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey