



ROME DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 8, 2023

Carnegie

607 Broad Street

MEETING MINUTES

Brock called the meeting to order at 8:33am and welcomed members, city staff and guests. Members present: Harry Brock, Rhonda Wallace, Megan Watters, Kelli Duncan, Elaine Abercrombie, and Tayesha Lytle. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Jennifer Bailey, Kelley Parker, Chris Jenkins, Joe Smith and Doug Walker. Guests present: David Crowder, Nelly Luthie, Jeb Arp and Ann Pullen.

ACTION

Approve May 2023 Minutes – Abercrombie made a motion to approve. Duncan seconded. All were in favor.

Approve BID Financials – Design account sits at \$68,511. Promotions sits at \$48,787. Duncan made a motion to approve. Watters seconded. All were in favor.

Ex-Officio Board Member Recommendation – Lesley recommended an ex-officio position from the Chamber be added to the board as the two entities work closely and have collaborate on several joint efforts. Recommendation is for Pam Powers-Smith to take this seat. Abercrombie made a motion to approve. Watters seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION

Ice-Skating Rink – Todd Wofford with Parks & Recreation presented on the proposed ice-skating rink at Bridgepoint Plaza. The tent would measure 60'x100' and made of heavy-duty aluminum. Barricades would surround the area leaving one entrance area. The company wanting to bring the rink has a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy. Parks & Recreation is seeking sponsorships. Wofford was unable to provide an exact number for sponsorships, but estimated they'd be in the \$2,000 range. Ridge Ferry was the original location, but Wofford feels it would be better suited downtown at Bridgepoint Plaza. Per Wofford, the ice-skating rink company or Parks & Recreation would be responsible for keeping the area clean. Wofford stated they would also be responsible for restoring the grass area that the rink would sit on. Brock asked if any discussion of parking had taken place, specifically with the owners of the lot beside Moe's BBQ. Wofford stated that they had not discussed parking yet. Lytle asked if Parks & Recreation would be covering the costs for setup. Per Wofford, they plan to use part-time employees for marketing, setup, and cleaning. Brock asked for clarification on DDA's involvement. Wofford stated that they're seeking DDA's blessing on the location as well as sponsorship funds. Lesley recommended that the board approve the location and an in-kind sponsorship. Abercrombie made a motion to approve. Duncan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sidewalk Permits – A new process for sidewalk permits was established in 2022. However, the amended ordinance was not presented to the commission, so the ordinance itself did not change. Amendments include changing the permitted area to the Central Business District, taking out the term "café", size requirements of planters, and number of allowed planters. The draft has been sent to the commission. DDA will be overseeing and recommendation for action will go to Code Enforcement. Watters asked if the new sidewalk permit application will go out to all businesses in the CBD. Per Lesley, yes, it will be emailed out to businesses. Duncan made a motion to approve the amended application. Watters seconded. Duncan made a motion to approve the amended ordinance. Watters seconded. All were in favor.

Committee Update – No reports at this time.

Staff Reports –

- Lesley recognized new grounds crew members, Barry Jackson and Mike Wigley. Their efforts have been noticed and complimented by the public several times in the short time they've been with the DDA.

Other/Adjourn – Bird Scooters were briefly discussed. The company plans to bring 75 scooters, 95% of which will be downtown. The board and some visitors are hesitant of the number of scooters being brought in. They also shared their concerns for safety. Brock called to adjourn the meeting at 9:43am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bailey-Bowers, Recording Secretary