

CLEARWATER DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
April 7, 2021 – 5:30 PM – City Council Chambers

- 1. Call to Order.** Chairman Morfopoulos called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance: Chairman Paris Morfopoulos
Vice Chair Keanan Kintzel
Ray Cassano
Caitlein Jammo
Festus Porbeni
Terri Novitsky

Mayor Frank Hibbard
Ex-officio Member Mark Bunker

CRA Director Amanda Thompson
CRA Program Specialist Anne Lopez
CRA Public Relations and Programs Manager Rosemary D'Amour
CRA Business Assistance Administrator Howard Smith
DDB Attorney Elise K. Winters

Absent: Shahab Emrani

- 2. Approve minutes of the March 3, 2021, meeting.** Upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Kintzel and Jammo, and carried by a unanimous vote, the minutes of the February 3, 2021, meeting were approved.

- 3. Citizens to be heard regarding items not on the agenda.** None.

4. New Business Items

- 4.1. January 2021 Financial Statement for Approval.** Upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Jammo and Kintzel, and carried by a unanimous vote, the February 2021 Financial Statement was approved.

The chairman requested a departure from the agenda to address funding requests ahead of other possibly lengthy discussions.

- 5.1. Mr. Inf1n1ty request for \$5,500** for signage (\$1,200) and a fitness event (\$4,300). The request was amended from March 2021 to include further details per the Board. CRA Director Thompson stated that information still outstanding included a second quote for signage, a letter of permission from the landlord and permits from the City, and a detailed description of the event. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Cassano and Novitsky to fund half the request if the City would allow the outdoor use; the motion did not pass with a vote of two to four. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Jammo and Kintzel for full funding of the request, and carried by a unanimous vote, the funding request was approved.

- 5.2. DCMA request for \$30,000** for live music on Cleveland Street through May 2022. The request was amended from March 2021 to include further details per the Board. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Kintzel and Porbeni, and carried by a unanimous vote, the funding request was approved.

The chairman returned to the agenda.

- 4.2. Discussion guidelines for future funding requests.** The chairman stated the Board will not consider funding requests through May and June 2021. CRA Director Thompson reviewed the current policy and work plan. Discussion followed regarding changes include equality and diversity, information needed including a detailed budget, timeline of request made to

presentation to Board, and how to support the applicant.

- 4.3. Resolution regarding Ex Officio Members.** DDB Attorney Winters presented a resolution limiting the number of ex officio members on the Board to one. After much discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded by Members Cassano and Kintzel, and a vote five to one, the resolution was approved and will be sent to the City Council.

5. Old Business

- 5.3. Downtown Summit Update.** Member Kintzel thanked CRA PR and Programs Manager D'Amour for her assistance planning a public meeting. An agenda has been drafted to send to downtown group representatives for feedback

- 5.4. Equity Committee Updates.** Member Jammo that meetings have been scheduled with the community to gather information and ideas as well as share information. May or June presentation of 'Equity boot camp' in the works.

- 5.5. CRA Updates.** CRA Director Thompson reminded members that Assistant City Manager Michael Delk will be the Interim CRA Director during her maternity leave. Ms. Thompson also requested that members schedule their call with Bandwagon regarding branding and marketing messages. Councilmember Albritton is asking for a letter of support for the PSTA multi-modal center federal grant application; upon discussion, the Board requested a letter draft from the CRA. Two new grant programs adopted by CRA Trustees, and a third on the agenda to reduce vacancy and blight. Finally, CRA PR and Programs Manager D'Amour is moving back to DC over the summer; her job is posted.

6. Chairman's Report. None.

7. Board Members to be heard

Member Cassano enjoyed a meal at the new 530 Pub & Grill (530 Cleveland Street) and is very excited about everything happening downtown.

Member Porbeni thanked the City and the CRA for all they do for downtown.

Member Kintzel seconded Member Porbeni's comments and stated that he is happy to promote the DCMA charity night, as well.

Member Jammo echoed all gratitude, and thanked the CRA and CRA PR and Programs Manager D'Amour specifically for all her help.

Member Novitsky agreed with all, and thanked the CRA staff and CRA PR and Programs Manager D'Amour, hoping we get someone at least as awesome in her place.

Mayor Hibberd stated that the City Council has had work sessions regarding Imagine Clearwater, a conservancy, and an operator for the venue among other things. City Manager Horne has authorized closure of the 400 and 500 blocks of Cleveland Street through the end of 2021 followed by a six-month traffic study regarding the impact it has. Please see the consultant for Complete Streets for information regarding keeping Drew Street traffic safe and moving.

Ex officio Member Bunker was "deeply touched by Elise's concern about wasting [his] time".

Chairman Morfopoulos stated that he had participated in a call with Bandwagon, encouraged other members to do the same, and wished CRA PR and Programs Manager D'Amour well in her future.

8. Adjourned at 6:56 p.m.