

**Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
April 6, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2023. The meeting commenced at 6:32 pm and adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Matthew Bellows
Bobette Patton
Brandon Bradshaw
Byron Price
Kathleen Sorkin

Voting Members Absent:

Cynthia Martin
Brendan O'Brien
Matthew Erker

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Smith, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development
Montez Miles, Economic Development Specialist
Rajaye Smith, Interim ACM/Economic Development Specialist

Others attending:

None

Approval of Minutes

Motioned by Matthew Bellows, seconded by Brandon Bradshaw to approve the minutes from July 7, 2022 and October 6, 2022.

Motioned carried by voice vote.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Crow announced the celebration of 100 years of parks in University City, noting that Flynn Park was the first in 1923. He said on April 16th there is a kickoff of a one-year celebration of the parks. He said on the city calendar there is a different park every month. Mayor Crow stated that on April 16th, the kickoff ceremony would be a Ruth Park Woods with a tour given by students and members of community. He said the firefighters will be using the drone to take pictures of people in the parks. He noted that the second anchor for Market at Olive has been signed, noting that it was Dierbergs. There is one anchor left, which is moving swiftly so he hoped it would be done soon. He also listed other business that will be joining the development. He stated that the Market at Olive is fast becoming a sold-out development. He also mentioned that Joe Edwards had sold most of his property in the Loop

to Washington University. He said Wash U said they will continue to pay property taxes on their properties, so they are hoping they will do that since they do not have to pay property taxes if they don't want to. He noted there would be a ribbon-cutting for the Quik Trip the following Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. He noted there were school board elections earlier in the week and noted that two should be serving on this board. Deputy City Manager Smith noted that there is currently a vacant seat, and board member Matthew Bellows, who also serves on the school board, said there would be two once the reorganization at the school board occurs. Mayor Crow concluded his comments and there were no questions.

Introduction of Montez Miles

Chair Sorkin noted there was an introduction of the new Economic Development Specialist Montez Miles. Deputy City Manager Smith introduced Miles and noted that he would be focused on Business Retention and Expansion. Miles then provided a few fun facts about himself.

New Business

FY23 Façade Improvement Applications

Chair Sorkin opened the discussion for the FY23 Façade Improvement Applications. She asked if there were any questions or concerns. Deputy City Manager Smith noted that Rajaye Smith was present if the board wanted to go through the power point and discuss the projects. She also noted that the amount requested does exceed the \$150,000 allocated and that staff had intended to recommend not fully funding some of the applications, but the City Manager recommended that we fund all the applications at \$187,816. Chair Sorkin agreed, noting that there is a surplus of funds in the EDRST account. Bobette Patton said she thought this would be geared toward small business owners, not larger businesses. Deputy City Manager Smith responded that the program is open to any for-profit business and there is no distinction between whether it's a small or large business, whether the applicant is the building owner or not. Further discussion as had on this. Brandon Bradshaw asked how staff gets the word out about these programs. Deputy City Manager Smith and Rajaye Smith explained to the Board how the program was marketed. Byron Price asked if other businesses could participate in the program moving forward. Deputy City Manager Smith responded yes, noting that funding for the program will be include for FY24 and that staff hopes it will be an annual program. Byron Price asked if the board members could make referrals. Deputy City Manager Smith answered yes but noted that applications were closed now. She said that board members can share contact information for potential applicants and that staff would reach out to them when the applications open again in the new fiscal year.

Chair Sorkin called for a motion to approve the applications.

Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Mathhew Bellows and carried by voice vote to recommend approval of the FY23 Façade Improvement Applications, not to exceed \$188,000.

Farmers Market Request for Additional Funds in FY23

Chair Sorkin opened the discussion for this next agenda item. Deputy City Manager Smith provided a brief overview before turning the floor over to Deb Henderson from the Farmers Market.

Smith noted that the Farmers Market is requesting an additional \$25,000 for new programming for FY23.

Deb Henderson presented the request from Farmers Market, noting that the new programming would consist of a new Wednesday market and increased advertising for the winter market. Chair Sorkin asked if there was a financial overview for the request. Deb Henderson provided this information, which was also included in the application packet.

Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Matthew Bellows and carried by voice vote to recommending approval of funding for the new programming, not to exceed \$25,000.

Board Member Comments

Next Meeting Date – July 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Due to the 4th of July holiday, the board agreed to move the July meeting to the 13th.

Adjourn

Chair Sorkin called for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Matthew Bellows, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.