

**Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board**  
**Minutes**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 29, 2024. The meeting commenced at 6:00 pm and adjourned at 7:21 pm.

*\*\*\*The recording was started 6 minutes after the meeting started. During this time there was general discussion about the proposed project applications.*

**Voting Members Present:**

Chair Kathleen Sorkin  
Brendan O'Brien  
Bobette Patton  
Karen Bernstein  
Byron Price  
Brandon Bradshaw

**Voting Members Absent:**

Matthew Bellows  
Cynthia Martin

**Council Liaison:**

Mayor Terry Crow

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others attending:**

None

**Minutes**

There were no minutes available to vote on.

**Public Comments**

There were none received.

**Mayor's Comments**

There were no comments.

**Old Business**

*i. FY24 EDRST Applications – VOTE REQUIRED*

Deputy City Manager reviewed each proposed project, provided score and the staffs' recommendation for each proposed project and answered any questions asked by the Board members. Project summaries are attached to these minutes and incorporated herein. Each project was voted on individually as follows:

*Artisans in the Loop* – Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Brandon Bradshaw and carried by voice vote to deny funding for Artisans in the Loop.

*iNeighborhoods – Bear Studios* – Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Brendan O'Brien and carried by voice vote to deny funding for iNeighborhoods – Bear Studios.

*Midwest Association of Farmers Market* – Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Karen Bernstein and carried by voice vote to approve funding, not to exceed \$26,500.

*Meramac Capital* – Motioned by Brendan O'Brien, seconded by Karen Bernstein and carried by voice vote to deny funding for Meramec Capital.

*Hatchet Haus* – Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to deny funding for Hatchet Haus.

*Mannequins in the Loop* – Motioned by Brendan O'Brien, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to approve funding, not to exceed \$20,000.

*SHED* – Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to approve funding, not to exceed \$16,250. Karen Bernstein abstained from this vote.

*Well U Café* – Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Brandon Bradshaw and carried by voice vote to approve funding, not to exceed \$77,200.

*Loop Special Business District* – Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Karen Bernstein and carried by voice vote to approve funding, not the exceed \$216,000 for eight (8) applications, with the caveat that the funding for Expanded Outdoor Dining not be released until a policy is adopted by the City with guidelines for the program.

## **New Business**

### *i. FY24 Façade Improvement Applications*

Economic Development Specialist Montez Miles presented the FY24 applications for Façade Improvement. Board members asked questions and provided feedback. Brendan O'Brien noted that he would be abstaining from the vote on Urban Sprouts.

Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to approve the following:

- a. International Market – Coin Laundry located at 8430 & 8500 Olive, not to exceed \$30,000
- b. Meramac Capital LLC located at 6307 & 6309 Delmar Blvd., not to exceed \$30,000
- c. Macc Boyz Properties, LLC located at 7267, 7271, & 7273 Olive Blvd., not to exceed \$43,397.
- d. Urban Sprouts located 6757, 6767, 6773 Olive Blvd., not to exceed \$45,000 (Brendan O'Brien abstained from voting on this application)
- e. Mary G. Properties located at 6267 & 6275 Delmar Blvd, not to exceed \$2,000

The application submitted by Hatchet Haus was not approved by the board due to the fact that the applicant did not have an executed lease for the property.

**Board Member Comments**

There were no comments.

**Next Meeting Date – April 4, 2024**

Deputy City Manager Smith noted that the FY26 Budget would be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

Motioned by Chair Kathy Sorkin, seconded by Karen Bernstein and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.