

Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
October 3, 2024
6:30 p.m.

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at the Heman Park Community Center. The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm and adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Chair Kathleen Sorkin
Brendan O'Brien
Bobette Patton
Cynthia Martin
Byron Price
Brandon Bradshaw
Dr. Monica Stewart

Voting Members Absent:

Karen Bernstein

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

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

Others attending:

None

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Public Comments

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Crow stated that there was one piece of land left at the Market at Olive development and it is likely to be taken by the end of the year. He said that all land will be transferred by the end of the year, which means it is done. He discussed the development and its success and noted that it was moving along fast. He discussed the issue with Seafood City and that a lot of city money was spent to clean the building. He noted that an RFP was issued for the land and the owners paid us in full for the money expended to clean the building. He said we continue to have expressions of interest in the site. He noted that Royal Banks will be added on Olive across from Costco and Raising Cane's. Mayor Crow stated that the city received the money for the Subtext Development to purchase a new fire truck for the city. He discussed that development, which is located in the Loop. He discussed the old Jordan site at Delmar and Hanley, noting that it will be a new coffee shop and restaurant. He noted that the owner has multiple restaurants and lives in U City. Mayor Crow also discussed the

vacancies in the Loop and he said that the fund does not need to keep growing and we do not want to misspend any of the money, but noted that there are a lot of challenges for the Loop and conversations need to be had. He discussed the lack of activity in the Loop and he noted that Wash U has been willing to have conversations since they own commercial space in the Loop. Discussion was also had about the vacant restaurant spaces in the Loop and the rehab of the old Cicero's building and the residential spaces above. Chair Kathy Sorkin stated that the Loop does not look good, noting that the outdoor dining looks bad. Discussion was had about the appearance of the Loop. Mayor Crow also noted that the 4/20 Fest was the largest event in the Loop the previous year. Discussion was also had about a coffee shot coming to the Market at Olive Development.

New Business

- i. Release of funds for FY25 – UCIB, Farmers Market, The Mannequins Project, and LSBD*

Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith provided updates on the four entities that receive funding each year from EDRST without application. She provided updates on each entity, discussed their proposed projects and activities, and answered any questions that were asked.

Motioned by Bobette Patton, seconded by Monica Stewart and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to U City in Bloom for fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$54,945.

Motioned by Cynthia Martin, seconded by Monica Stewart and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to Farmers Market for fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$46,000.

Motioned by Bobette Patton, seconded by Monica Stewart and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to The Mannequins Project for fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$25,000.

Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Cynthia Martin and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to the Loop Special Business District for fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$275,000.

Board Member Comments

Mayor Crow mentioned Frank & Helen's and noted that staff and Council had been talking to the owners since learning of their plan to close and he stated that he believed they were done and did not want to go into debt, but he wanted to make sure it was noted that the city had done all it could to assist. Further discussion was had and it was noted that they would close on December 8th.

Byron Price asked about the Seafood City space and whether the city had ever tried to acquire it. Mayor Crow explained that the city did "threaten" to take the property and the owners were now working on a redevelopment plan. Mayor Crow mentioned the last study session with MSD and the new stormwater plans which includes boring a hole from

Shrewsbury, six miles to Heman Park, which will give us downspouts for water. He also discussed the detention basin and noted that the hope was to prevent future flooding issues.

Christina Dancy asked if Royal Banks would demolish their old building. The Mayor said he was unsure, but he was confident they were not staying at their current location.

Next Meeting Date – January 9, 2025

Adjourn

Motioned by Bobette Patton, seconded by Dr. Monica Stewart and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.