

HSD Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)
May 26, 2020

Attendees:

Board: Jamie Lee, Stephanie Pure, Karen True, Ken Takahashi, Jessica Rubenacker, Derek Lum, Dana Phelan, MAria Batayola

Staff: Kathleen Johnson, James King, Jr

Guests:

Jessa Timber (Alliance for Pioneer Square)

Lillian Young

Herman Tan

Rebecca Frestedt

Laura Rattner (Path with Art) -appreciation for the emergency funding grant

Monisha Singh - Executive Director of C-ID Business Improvement Area (BIA)

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm

Welcome new board member Che Wong (Craft 3 - outreach for King County)

No Public Comment

Current Issues: business, residents, public realm/safety impacts to both neighborhoods since Covid

Special Guest presenter, Monisha Singh: (C-ID focus) Public Realm = decrease in litter and trash on the streets but increase in graffiti; lots of businesses have boarded up but artists are volunteering to paint murals on the boards

June 27 Dragon Fest canceled, Night Market likely to be canceled in September (fundraiser + cultural activations) not safe for the public and our businesses.

Harassment and xenophobia across the country and our city (since late January) 16 businesses have been broken into (many multiple times)

Encampments, fire in abandoned house, recently, four shootings/2 deaths; encampments cleared last Thursday and Friday. Lots of activity at night and (now) early morning; volunteer patrol service is walking around but the break-ins are happening outside of those hours

Post Recovery - what does it look like?, in the planning phase now, learning from others who are also being innovated

Positives:

- creative nature of small business, their creativity in service + merchandise (sea food boil kit example)
- Small business relief funds, FB Group - Support C-ID, which is very reactive
- The next generation of business owners are popping up/stepping up (leveraging social media) help to modernize to support the business during this time.

Karen True: Pioneer Square - Ecosystem, connections between the two neighborhoods is evident;

- What you see are coffee shops closed, some restaurants are doing take out and pick up; some businesses are remaining open even though it makes economic sense to close, but it's important to be present/open/of service in the neighborhood (example: Some Random Bar)
- Big question is how soon will office workers come back (15,000 people)
- Starting to get some plans from those businesses (slow re-entry)
- Concerns
 - Public Transit (parking)
 - Public Safety (volunteer patrol service is here too)
 - Maybe 10 percent of workers will return by the end of July;
 - Trash/rat activity is up
- Positive:
 - murals, over 40 murals (will send a link of the map of murals in PSQ done by PSQ artists)
 - service providers are talking to each other more than they ever have before
 - business reopened for business last week, but a lot of his customers are being assaulted in the neighborhood
 - over the moon excited about the grant from HSD, which opened up grant for small businesses to boost their on-line presence

Ken Takahashi, city-wide perspective: Hearing/seeing a lot of the same concerns in other areas of the city; as businesses are thinking what it means to open up in phase 2; partnering with Communities Rise to help small business owners talk with their building owners regarding rent; stabilization grants are being worked on, the need is bigger than what we have resources for, working with SBA as well - these are not a perfect solution, but we're still working on things together. Know that there will be an on-going need for technical assistance (financial management, business planning for operating in a new way are a couple of examples).

C-ID residents: supporting residents (food security, wellness checks, supply supports [masks], working with children to make sure they have the devices and resources to ensure they can complete the school year).

Discussion:

Maria Batayola: International Examiner is trying to survive through the summer (fundraising) since the revenues are drying up and ads are not being sold (she is a newly returned board members to the IE)

King County employees will telework until Sept 7. North end of the county, rider ship plummeted but nothing change for the south end of the county. (450,000 trips per day but it has gone down 75%, but we're still servicing 100K people a day) how this is effecting people depends on where you live in the county.

Environment has improved for a variety of reasons: less traffic possible. Will companies (public and private) be implementing/creating new work at home policies —> this may be a new model of large companies (it is now more viable) don't know about the longevity.

Colleges/university fall classes will likely be hybrid or completely on-line.

Day care centers are open to families of first responders.

Residents in PSQ: under 30 are still out and about, but the over 50 are not coming out as much;

Appreciate the guest speakers and of the experiences of those who continue to live and work in the neighborhoods.

Consent Agenda

Questions/Comments/Concerns?

HSD April Notes: Need to correct two typos

Motion to Approve Agenda once corrections are made: Maria Batayola

Second: Karen True

Ayes: All

Opposed/Abstentions: None

Motions Passes

COVID Grant

- This is the second round of funding requests we are looking at.
 - Cut off point in April reviewed the first round
 - Six additional applications after the first cut off point: Reviewed on May 15
 - Almost all received \$10,000 in funding
- \$14,000 remains for non-profit
 - Insufficient amount to recruit additional applicant requests
 - Community Review Panel looked at previously denied or not fully funded requests to provide use remaining funding.
 - An additional \$4,000 for Real Change
 - Compass Housing (previously denied): What's changed? Criteria: Will this \$10,000 make a difference to an organization? Yes, given the sustainability and other challenges that they face (plus the fact that they have received HSD support in the past).
- Could HSD support a rapid technical assistance support for organizations? Hold for the following conversation?
- Kin On Health Care Center was not considered for funding since they didn't indicate that they have a footprint in the C-ID or in Pioneer Square. James will reach back out to them for future funding requests since it was made clear that they do have a footprint in the C-ID.

Motion to Approve as Presented: Stephanie

Second: Maria Batayola

Opposed/abstentions: None

Approve: All

Motion Passes

Budget Projection

HSD has a current budget of \$6.6 million through Jan 2023.

- \$5.8 will be spent by the end of summer
- About \$600K that would be available for round 4.
- Round three will have \$1million (as previous), but do we want to fund more additional emergency grants or reserve the funds for round 4 or add more funding to round 3? Decision does not need to be done today.
- Round 3 = funding to go out after July 1
- Round 4 = RFP issued in Jan2021; funds to go out in late May 2021 (money needs to be spent and accounted for by Jan 2023).

Conversation:

- Are the funding requests fundamentally different? More info is coming this week as we are still collecting applications.

- Longer term support will be needed by both neighborhoods (re-opening challenges).
- Who are we and how do we want to support the neighborhoods? Once things are “normal” funding and support will dry out from the many sources that are open now. Rebuilding support is going to be critically important.
- Did we add any new questions to round 3 to address COVID? Intention behind the application process is to be open ended to allow for maximum flexibility for the applicants.
- Decision needs to be made within the next week or two. Committee meetings are open to all board members. Grant committee is informed of our economics. Next Steps: Kathleen and James to meet with grant making committee. If needed, a special board member meeting will be called for next steps.

Budget Info for FY21: Budget year ends at the end of June. Highlight info: income is odd, received bulk two years ago. \$1M, from WA State funding is sitting in an account,,, will draw down into HSD accounts in FY21. **Need comments before the June board meeting, because we will need to approve it by then.**

Organizational Development: FY21 sustainability work with the department of revenue (budgeted \$125K) consultant, legislation budget advice, and communications —> more info to come shortly. Is this enough? Maybe \$200K is more realistic.

Office spaces, grant events are up in the air.

ED Report - efforts have been reported out in other portions of this meeting

Good of the Order:

Kudos to Jamie Lee for speaking about the need to increase of tracking off hate crimes on local media. Reach out to the Southern Poverty Law tracker.

Hing Hay Arts & Crafts Fair: Open through the month of May

HSD sent dinner to Beth Takekawa as part of the dinner train.

Adjourn at 6:40 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on _____.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Secretary, Historic South Downtown Board of Directors