

## HSD Board Meeting

### Minutes of May 26, 2021 Meeting

Board Members Present: Tuyen Than, Diane Le, Maria Batayola, Shava Lawson, Dana Phelan, Ken Takahashi, Jessica Rubenacker, Karen True, Julie Fonseca de Borges, Stephanie Pure.

Members of the Public: Betty Lau, Friends of Japantown; Laura Rattner, Path With Art

Staff: Kathleen Johnson, James King, MaryKate Ryan

Julie Fonseca de Borges called the meeting to order at 5:01. Because Jamie Lee had a conflict, Julie led the meeting and Dana took minutes.

#### 1. Consent Agenda

Maria moved to approve the consent agenda, including April 2021 meeting minutes and April 2021 financial statements. Shava seconded. All board members present voted to approve the consent agenda. No nays and no abstentions.

#### 2. Grant Program Update

Kathleen presented the grant tracking report and stated that there are only a couple of contracts that are still pending from Round 3 of funding. Approximately \$4.17 has been awarded and \$3.25 million has been paid across all rounds.

#### 3. 2022 Draft Budget

Kathleen said that she would be presenting the 2022 budget but would not ask for a vote to approve the budget tonight; that will come in the June board meeting.

Kathleen shared an overview of anticipated revenue for 2022. Kathleen noted that City of Seattle funding to support neighborhood engagement with Sound Transit will end, but engagement work will continue, with HSD continuing to support those efforts.

Staff salary and benefits include Kathleen, James, and MaryKate. Currently staff time/expenses are not separated out in budget between HSD and Central District Community Preservation and Development Authority. Kathleen will do this in next draft of budget.

Julie requested that, if working from home continues to be mandated, there be support in the budget to cover expenses employees incur related to working from home. Julie offered to help determine how to budget for this and Kathleen will follow up.

Consulting fees include web design work, IT consultant to implement grant tracking software, West Seattle Ballard Link Extension consultants, advocacy and lobbying (Orlando Cano contract), communications (includes branding and messaging for advocacy for state funding).

Legal and accounting costs may depend on whether HSD can receive support from Washington Attorney General and state bookkeeping services. This is currently being determined.

A grant making budget of approximately \$870K is anticipated for 2022 fiscal year.

Kathleen noted that budget shows a deficit; this is because we continue to spend down King County funding that is earmarked to be spent down.

Kathleen shared the spending projections from 2017 to 2023, including costs for operations and grant administration. Kathleen noted that priority is to expend King County funds by the end of 2022.

In the chat, Maria suggested “Let’s talk about setting aside money for grantees and others to document the impact of COVID on their communities/program/business etc to analyze what COVID recovery dollars we want to access for distribution to PS & CID.” She noted that this would be important to access federal funding for COVID relief and recovery.

Kathleen said that she would like to hear more from the board about priorities for remaining funding. Grant making committee would be the best venue to consider those ideas.

Shava asked if there would be any stipulations about having to use funds within a limited period of time, given county deadline. Kathleen said yes – the RFP and grant contracts will stipulate deadline for spending funds.

Kathleen noted that a grant management system is needed. Right now staff use spreadsheets and accounting software but a more integrated system is needed.

Kathleen noted that recent focus has been largely on emergency funds, which did go out quickly, but Round 3 coming so quickly after emergency funds resulted in limited capacity among staff to expedite funding going out the door.

#### 4. Legislative Update

Kathleen provided an overview of Department of Revenue work to develop stable, ongoing funding options to support Historic South Downtown. Kathleen noted that stakeholders coalesced around tax on tickets for events at stadiums; this was the option that seemed to have clearest nexus to impacts on the neighborhoods and need for ongoing funding. Kathleen noted that stadiums would be likely to object, but that the additional cost to ticket buyers would be nominal. The messaging to advocate for this funding will need to be positive and forceful.

One option suggested by DOR was to annually transfer a fixed amount from the State General Fund into the CPDA account, but this did not seem appealing because it could be consistently under threat of being cut. All of the other options depend on authorization or approval by city or county, which also poses challenges.

Karen noted that communications would need to be positive and collaborative. The stadiums have worked closely with neighborhood partners, to support the neighborhoods and neighborhood businesses. Throughout COVID, they have been partners. Should be careful to acknowledge those efforts.

#### 5. EHB 1471 and terms of board seats

Kathleen said that amended state legislation allows Board members to serve 3 year terms. However it seems that the longer terms for each seat will begin with the next renewal or election, rather than extending current terms of 2 years to 3 years.

Diane asked if board seats could be contested, and Kathleen said that because HSD is a public body, it is always possible that someone will step up to run for election to seats that are open and up for renewal.

#### 6. For the Good of the Order

A discussion about neighborhood and business recovery ensued. Karen said that many businesses find things are picking up on the weekends, but less so during the week.

Karen noted that there is lots of development coming down the pike, like new Rail Spur project. Pavilion in Occidental Square opening and programming to start soon. Julie said that CID seems to be a little more active than Pioneer Square during her family's weekend visits. Sporting events are bringing fans back to the stadiums.

Kathleen recommends the film Paper Tiger – out now and filmed in the CID! The Wing Luke served as a green room for part of the filming.

There will be a survey by email to board members, to gauge possibilities for resuming meeting in person. Board members should watch for that from Kathleen.

Julie adjourned the meeting at 6:16 pm.