

## Joliet City Center Partnership

**Board of Directors  
April 13, 2022  
8:00 a.m. – CCP Office**

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting called to order at 8:04 a.m.**

#### 1. Approval of March Minutes

- Megan Millen motioned to approve amended financials.
- Diane Harris seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

#### 2. Approval of March Financials

- Jen Howard motioned to approve.
- Jim Roof seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

#### 3. Committee Chair Reports

- Marketing
  - Monica presented the Chamber’s New Orleans North event grant request for \$1,500. Monica made a motion to approve. Diane seconded. Jen Howard abstained. All aye-motion approved.
  - Monica presented the Rock & Roll Museum first ever Cars & Guitars event grant request in the amount of \$3,000. Monica made a motion to approve the grant. Megan Millen seconded. All aye-motion approved.
  - Monica stated that the I-80 signage was declined. Jim Roof suggested we request that a brown sign be placed 3-4 exits prior stating “Historic Downtown Joliet” next 4 exits.
  - Monica presented the new Business Spotlight format in the newsletter. AudioPhil’s is our first spotlight.
  - Paws on 66 planning is underway. More volunteers are needed. \$5,500 in sponsorships raised.
  - WGN is doing a 60 second commercial in partnership with the Will County Lodging Association and will feature some downtown locations.
  - Vicki has been working with the HCCVB on a rack card with a QR code pointing people to restaurants and shopping.
- Economic Development Committee
  - Jim stated the ED committee did not meet, but we do have a grant request from Puerto Escondido. The Executive Committee reviewed the grant and recommended it for approval. Two quotes were received, one in the amount of \$20,000 and the other for \$27,000. We cannot approve signage, but this is for a request for an awning with no lettering. Jim Roof made a motion to approve a \$10,000 grant, Jen Howard seconded. All aye-motion approved.

Name	Present	Absent
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant		X
Susan Bornhofen		X
Mike Brick	X	
Monica Cicimov	X	
Valerie Devine	X	
David DiLorenzo	X	
Amber Duffy	X	
Doug Pryor	X	
Diane Harris	X	
Jen Howard	X	
Bryan Kopman		X
Megan Millen	X	
Sue Moore	X	
Mayor Bob O’Dekirk		X
Jim Roof	X	
Dan Stevenson		X
Rod Tonelli (Chair)	X	
Denise Winfrey		X
Garland Mays (on behalf of JBT)		X
Priscilla Cordero (Director)	X	
Katie Smith (guest)	X	
Eva-Marie Tropper (guest)		X
Vicki Sanchez (M&E Manager)	X	

- OMA
  - Dave stated our most recent meeting was April 7th 3:00 p.m. at C&C Vision. He thanked Monica for hosting. It was a tie for the most attended meeting. Greg Ruddy, City of Joliet Public Works Director, was the guest speaker and spoke about Chicago Street Corridor improvements. The community clean up day has been scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4:00. Jim asked that we preview the SSA to see which areas need the most clean-up. Dave also reminded the Board the next OMA meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> and a speaker will be announced shortly.
- Beautification Committee
  - Megan stated we did not meet as we were waiting for a quote. The quote came back for \$80,000, a lot more than what we expected. Rod had an idea to just put the applique on the postcard size area on the parking lot. We received a revised quote for \$18,000. We still need to discuss what the actual image will be, but the idea is a vintage Joliet postcard.
  - Jen asked where we stand with the removal of outdated signage and other items downtown like the phone booth. Katie stated the signage has been removed and the other items just need to be noted to be removed. Jen stated that a list was created with Derek Conley. Jen also stated that Jim Caparrelli agreed to pave the alley between the Rialto and Cut 158. Jim encouraged people to use CitizenVue app to report issues around city. He stated that the city responded within 48 hours whenever he reported something. Rod requested that Priscilla reach out to Candace Wheeler to address the dumpsters next to the Plaza Hotel.

#### **4. Chair Report**

- Rod thanked Val Devine for her work at the Rialto and wished her the best in retirement.

#### **5. Strategic Plan**

- Priscilla and Rod presented the plan. Rod stated that the document stems from the 2015 Downtown Plan recommendations. Jen asked whether the city has seen this document. Rod stated they have not, but we are already working with the city on several initiatives and will share the final document with them as well. Rod requested that any feedback be sent to Priscilla.

#### **6. City Report**

- Rod Tonelli reported on the following:
  - The City is working on a contract with the firm who will design the city square. There will be stakeholder input. The contract is expected to be completed by May.
  - We have not yet heard back from the state on the grant for the city square. The state received a large number of applications. We will continue to reach out.
  - The comp plan was discussed at the last city council meeting. Another RFP process will be needed in order to get this off the ground. While it's the city plan, the CCP should continue to advocate to ensure that the downtown is a key component of that plan.

#### **7. Staff Report**

- Priscilla provided a recap on the "Starting a Business in Downtown Joliet" seminar which took place on March 10<sup>th</sup> at JJC's city center campus. Joliet Junior College, Midland States Bank and Allies for Community Business all participated. We had 34

people registered and twenty-eight attended. Attendees talked to presenters for 30 minutes after the event and were very engaged. Priscilla stated that this will be a quarterly event and an opportunity to market the Downtown. JJC also made the decision to move their Small Business Success Center (formerly SBDC) to the city center campus.

- The seminar will be repeated in Spanish on May 3rd with the Latino Economic Development Association.
- WGI was hired by the city to conduct a parking study. The CCP had a call with WGI to discuss challenges with parking downtown. They will put together survey as well to get out to our businesses. They expect to present their study in 3 months.
- The CCP is working with the HCCVB on a taco trail highlighting all of our taquerias. They did a similar thing called the ale trail.
- Cut 158 had a very successful soft opening. Priscilla encouraged board members to continue to support them.
- The Chamber is hosting a ribbon cutting for Ohio Banquets on April 22 and 2:00 p.m. Priscilla encouraged board members to attend.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.**

- Jim Roolf motioned to adjourn.
- Sue Moore seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.