

## Joliet City Center Partnership

**Board of Directors  
May 12, 2022  
8:00 a.m. – CCP Office**

### Meeting Minutes

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

#### **1. Approval of April Minutes**

- Jim Roolf motioned to approve.
- Diane Harris seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

#### **2. Approval of April Financials**

- Diane Harris motioned to approve.
- Val Devine seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.

#### **3. Committee Chair Reports**

- Marketing

- Priscilla presented a \$3,000 LEDA grant request. The grant will be used for the Latino Music Festival to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee met on May 9 and agreed to recommend \$3,000 to the Board. The full amount was budgeted for. Jim Roolf made a motion to approve \$3,000, Denise Winfrey seconded. All aye-motion approved.
- Priscilla presented an Art Movement grant request in the amount of \$2,500. The Executive Committee met on May 9 and determined that due to the grant not being budgeted for, we would instead support a \$1,000 request with additional assistance in marketing the event through social media channels. Denise Winfrey made a motion to approve, Diane Harris seconded. All aye-motion approved.
- Vicki provided updates on Paws on 66. We have 22 vendors registered. Because sponsorships are going well, we have decided to waive and reimburse vendor fees. Priscilla added that we've raised \$7,500 in sponsorships with \$1,000 this week from First Secure Bank & Trust.
- Kidzfest planning is going well. \$7,500 has been raised in sponsorships. Amber Duffy asked whether we could close the street all the way down to Cass. Vicki has requested this from the city and will do so if we have sufficient vendors.
- Tunes & Brews is also going well. Only \$2,500 in larger sponsorships left with some smaller \$250/500 levels available as well. Tickets are now on sale. Vicki asked that people go on Facebook to state they are attending the event as well as share the event to spread the word.

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	
Diane Harris	X	
Jen Howard		X
Bryan Kopman		X
Megan Millen		X
Sue Moore	X	
Mayor Bob O'Dekirk		X
Doug Pryor		X
Jim Roolf	X	
Dan Stevenson		X
Rod Tonelli (Chair)	X	
Denise Winfrey	X	
Garland Mays (on behalf of JBT)		X
Priscilla Cordero (Director)	X	
Vicki Sanchez (E&M Manager)	X	
Katie Smith (guest)	X	
Eva-Marie Tropper (guest)		X

- Vicki provided an update on the newsletter stating that we would like to begin a newsletter for residents and visitors in the near future. We will need help from businesses to generate content for this purpose. The business spotlight this month is ItisAmazing Boutique.
- Economic Development
  - Jim Roolf stated we did not have a meeting, but the items were discussed at Executive Committee. Melanie Lockhart Associates & Co. requested a Small Business Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,500 for signage. Melanie is starting a Farmers Insurance Agency in the vacant space next to Kreamers and expects to be open sometime in June. A \$1,500 grant was approved at the staff level.
  - Jim Roolf presented the P&J Remodeling LLC Building Improvement Grant for a property located at 452 N. Chicago St. The grant will be for façade improvements including removal of siding to be replaced with brick, painting of the side of the building and new windows. The amount they are eligible for is \$16,543. The Executive Committee recommended this for approval subject to final renderings being provided. Denise Winfrey made a motion to approve. Diane Harris seconded. Sue Moore abstained. All aye-motion approved.
- Owners & Managers Association Meeting
  - Dave DiLorenzo stated the next one is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00. More details to come.
- Beautification Committee
  - Megan stated that we are working on a vinyl wrap on the garage deck on Chicago Street. We have funding lined up, but need to complete the design and get approval from the city.
  - Priscilla stated that community clean-up day is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4 p.m. She requested that board members sign up if possible.

#### **4. Chair/City Report**

- Rod stated that the city has hired a new Economic Development Director. His name is Cesar Suarez and comes from Peoria. He will start on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Matt Wilson was also hired as an Economic Development Specialist. The Economic Development Department is now fully staffed.
- The city approved a contract with Civiltech to begin the design process on the City Square. The city is starting the community engagement process which will begin in early-mid June. The intention is that the design process is 12-18 months with construction to begin in 2024. We have not yet heard back on the state grant. Jim Roolf commented on the city council meeting – the city council approved nearly \$2 million in improvements. The vote was unanimous. This demonstrates the city’s commitment to the downtown and the square.
- The city is working with John Bays to directly purchase the Loughran building. The goal is for a restaurant to occupy the ground floor with apartments above.

#### **5. Staff Report**

- Priscilla provided a summary of the Starting a Business seminar done in partnership with LEDA. 19 individuals attended with a mix of start-ups and existing businesses in the SSA. Attendees stayed afterwards to ask more questions and network. It was a successful event and we plan to continue to host these.

- CCP and HCCVB are working on a taco trail. CCP has reached out to Mexican restaurants in the SSA that are interested in participating. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Koenig Group hosted a ribbon cutting which was very well attended. They are excited to be downtown and will help promote downtown.
- Priscilla presented analytics for website traffic to our LOIS site (property inventory site). We have had over 2,000 visitors from all over the country since the website went live in January.
- Rod Tonelli and Katie Smith organized a downtown tour with CL Enterprise. Priscilla also attended. They toured the Rialto offices, the Loughran Building and the Post Office to name a few. They were particularly interested in the Post Office. Although they are not pursuing anything at this time, it is good to continue to host these tours and bring attention to the area.
- The IHSA tournament is scheduled for June 10 and 11. CCP is communicating with businesses and restaurants to ensure they are open for business during these hours. HCCVB will also include a flyer with business hours.
- 70-74 N. Chicago Street is in the process of being purchased by Noe Patino. More information to come.
- An attorney purchased several properties on the north end of Chicago Street and is very interested in economic development and improvement of the region. Priscilla met with him to discuss grant programs and invited him to attend OMA meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.**

- Diane Harris motioned to adjourn.
- Jim Roolf seconded.
- All Aye – Motion approved.