

ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Reddy Farrell
Jim Hart
Elizabeth Young Jojo
Angelo Maddox
Neil McGreevy
Amanda Rozsavolgyi
Cameron Sagan
Hon. Darius Shahinfar
Josh Wainman

ABSENT:

Leola Edelin
Mohamed Hemmid
Leyla Kiosse
Benn MacDonald
Adam Sanders
Frank Zeoli

STAFF PRESENT:

Jevan Dollard
Caroline Murray
Georgette Steffens
Don Wilson

21 Lodge Street
Albany, NY 12207
p 518.465.2143
f 518.465.0139
www.downtownalbany.org

Georgette Steffens
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Neil McGreevy
PRESIDENT

Jim Hart
VICE-PRESIDENT

Josh Wainman
TREASURER

Amanda Rozsavolgyi
SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Young Jojo at 4:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Young Jojo calls for a motion to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes | Mr. Shahinfar motions | Mr. Sagan seconded | All approved and the motion passed.

Presidents Report

Annual Meeting

Ms. Young Jojo shared the Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 7th. It will be a luncheon and the state's consultant – MIG will be the main speaker.

Ms. Young Jojo stated each year the BID gives two awards at our Annual Meeting.

o The *Jim DiNapoli Award* is given to an individual, organization or business, who in working in partnership with the BID, has demonstrated leadership by exemplifying the BID's mission in restoring, promoting and maintaining the character and viability of downtown Albany and improving the quality of life and overall image for all those who live in, work in and visit the Capital City. You can see a list of those who have received the Award in previous years. We are recommending this year's awardee be Mayor Kathy Sheehan. Her support for the wayfinding finding was instrumental in that project moving forward. She understood the need for the reconstruction of Tricentennial Park. Under her leadership we also saw the creation of Clinton Market and the Skyway. And she supported our small businesses with grant funding through the City's ARPA funding.

o Last year we brought back the *Luminary Award* which recognizes an individual or organization that acts as a "leading light" in the development of Downtown's small business, arts, and/or residential communities. A Downtown Luminary is a gamechanger, a leader who helps shift the perception of what the district is and what its future can hold. The Downtown Albany BID honors these innovators for their contributions to the neighborhood and their ability to open doors for the next generation of trailblazers. Staff is recommending The Hollow Bar & Kitchen. They continue to be an integral part of Pearlpalooza, are always connected Downtown businesses to each other and outside the District, support community organizations, and more.

The Board agreed with those recommendations.

Treasurer's Report

Funding Requests

Mr. Maddox stated the staff have one funding request that is being recommended by the Budget & Finance Committee. It is for a few months of public relations assistance. Mr. Maddox asked Ms. Steffens to provide the details of the request.

Ms. Steffens reminded the Board we have discussed the need for a public relations campaign to combat misinformation about the state of Downtown, build a coalition of Downtown supporters, and help with messaging tied to the state's investment and CAP initiative. Corning Place Communications is a BID stakeholder. The proposal is for four months of services with the hope that the city or a consortium of Albany strategic partners would work together to continue the public relations work.

The Board suggested also working with Downtown residents that would share our events and good news. They also suggested partnering with local influencers to help spread the information to new and targeted markets.

Mr. Maddox called for a motion to approve the funding request for public relations services with Corning Communications in the amount of \$4,500 | Mr. Shahinfar motioned | Mr. McGreevy seconded | All members approved

Committee Report

Governance Committee

- Board Elections – Ms. Young Jojo said there are 6 property owner positions and 1 commercial tenant position open. The BID received two eligible property owners' and two eligible commercial tenants' Statement of Interests.

The property owners are:

- Ahil Dawoodani, owner 420 Broadway, owner of Coulson's, and resident in the building
- Ruth Kassel, Manager of the CIT (formerly known as the Coliseum) and owned by Community Loan Fund

The commercial tenants we received Statements of Interest are:

- Nate Sims, Assistant General Manager MVP Arena
- Josh Turo, Managing Partner at dps & Yono's

Ms. Young Jojo stated the Governance Committee has selected Nate Sims for the one open Commercial Tenant position. The Committee believes it is important to have a representative on our Board from the largest driver of visitors to our District.

We anticipate having a Class B Commercial Tenant resign from the Board by the end of the year and the Board Chair can nominate Mr. Turo to fill that open position when it becomes open.

Ms. Young Jojo called for a motion to approve the three individuals for the ballot | Mr. Shahinfar motions | Mr. Sagan seconded | All approved and the motion passed.

Executive Committee

Ms. Young Jojo reported that both her and Ms. Reddy Farrell's time on the Board is coming to an end. With that, the Governance Committee is recommending the following slate of officers:

- Neil McGreevy as President
- Jim Hart as Vice President
- Josh Wainman as Treasurer
- Amanda Rozsavolgyi as Secretary

Ms. Young Jojo called for a motion to approve the Slate of Officers | Mr. Shahinfar motions | Mr. Sagan seconded | All approved and the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

CAP Initiative

Ms. Steffens stated it was an honor to represent downtown Albany at the Governor's press announcement regarding the \$400 million. Hochul announced MIG as the consulting firm hired by ESD. The following day, Ms. Steffens attended a working lunch meeting with ESD, MIG, CBID, Discover Albany, and the Chamber. It was an opportunity to learn more about the process MIG envisions, share the hopes we have for the initiative, and answer some initial questions about current conditions, challenges, and opportunities. Ms. Steffens shared MIG is developing a 5-10 year growth strategy, not developing a plan for how to spend the \$200 million economic development. They discussed creating goals for number of residential units, job creation, etc. and then the financial incentives, recommended policies, and more will be built around those goals.

Wayfinding Update

Ms. Steffens provided an update on budget for the wayfinding project. She stated the Board set aside \$200,000 as our portion of the project. After the ARPA grant funds, the Albany Parking Authority's increased contribution, and some increases to costs, there is roughly \$48,000 remaining of the BID's \$200,000. Ms. Steffens stated they are working through the final pieces and so there still may be some additional costs, but she does not expect to use the full \$200,000.

Nippers Update

Ms. Steffens shared there were over 80 artist submissions, the most we have ever received. The Garden Party is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9 at the reconstructed Tricentennial Park. Ms. Steffens recommended the following folks for the two awards given at the Garden Party:

- Norman Rice Arts Culture and Education Award – Jade Warwick and Eugene O'Neill of Amplified Voices, a grassroots art and education initiative that enriches communities through diverse arts programming, engaging workshops, and vibrant public art. Ms. Warwick also painted the mural on Broadway across from the DEC building with the woman with the sunflower. Mr. O'Neill painted the mural along the walkway at William Street.
- Civic Arts Patron Award – Annette Nanes supports creatives of all mediums – fill at the Spectrum Theatre she was a co-owner at, encouraging culinary exploration through ownership at New World Bistro, and supporting artists at Albany Center Gallery where she serves as a Board member. Ms. Nanes was an early supporter of the Wine & Dine for the Arts Festival and the Little Reb Bookshelf. She is also a proud Downtown resident.

Ms. Steffens stated there are still a few Nippers available to sponsor and reminded everyone it comes with the right of first refusal to purchase the Nipper statue at the end of the exhibit.

Events Update

Ms. Steffens reported the following about Downtown events:

- Downtown Albany Residential Open House had 40 people attending, viewing five apartment buildings showing units. Participating property owners stated the two times – lunch and after work was too much for them to staff.

- Alive at Five starts this week at Tricentennial Park. The BID is working on numerous marketing and promotion pieces to keep the crowds in Downtown after the concert ends.
- Live Score Movies start this week at Clinton Market Collective
- Free yoga on Saturday mornings for June and July starts this week.
- Ghostbusters was rained out and we are hoping to be able to reschedule the date.
- Juneteenth is June 14. We have been working with the organizers on their permit with the city, providing portajohns, and vendors.

Other Business

Mr. Maddox shared that CapCity Runners have begun meeting every Wednesday at Common Roots at 5:45PM to run a 5k together and invited others to join. They meet at Alis Coffee on Saturdays at 6AM as well.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, at 4:00 PM

21 Lodge Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room