

GRAND JUNCTION DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
8:00 A.M.
DOWNTOWN GRAND JUNCTION, 437 COLORADO AVE
(Zoom meeting ID: 148 875 715 Password: 709114)

PRESENT: Doug Simons Jr. (Chair), Josh Niernberg (Vice-Chair), Tom LaCroix, Dan Meyer, Maria Rainsdon, Duncan Rowley, Anna Stout

ABSENT: Libby Olson, Vance Wagner

DDA/BID STAFF: Brandon Stam, Dave Goe, Vonda Bauer, Rykel Menor

CITY STAFF: John Shaver (City Attorney)

CALL TO ORDER: Doug called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting of February 13, 2020

Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting. Maria seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

Brandon presented a "Telephone and Electronic Participation in DDA/BID Board Meetings Policy" to the Board. The Policy would give Board members the ability to participate and vote by telephone or electronic participation at a DDA/BID Board meeting if the Board member is unable to physically attend a meeting.

The meeting agendas would continue to be posted on the window at the Downtown Grand Junction office as well as on the Downtown website. The agenda will include a link and access information that will allow the members of the public the ability to watch and/or hear the meetings.

The Board discussed utilizing the policy in a temporary manner for emergency circumstances. Once the COVID-19 pandemic becomes less prevalent, the Board can reevaluate the continuation of this policy.

Anna made a motion to approve the Telephone and Electronic Participation Policy. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brandon recommended the Board give the authority for the subcommittee (Dan and Libby) to approve the façade grants instead of waiting to get approval at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a consent agenda for the purpose of streamlining the approval process of the Façade Grant requests.

Duncan made a motion to have Façade Grant applications and Special Grant applications reviewed by the subcommittee based on their approval and submission to the Executive Director and that they be part of the consent agenda that the Board can vote on at their discretion. Maria seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

420 MAIN STREET – Café Sol

The Façade Grant subcommittee reviewed a Façade Grant request that was submitted by Nicholas Santos (Manger of Café Sol) and Walter Stout (property owner). The property is located at 420 Main Street. The funds requested were to replace their awning. The total cost of the awning was \$2,982.78; therefore, they would receive reimbursement for 50% of the costs which would be \$1,491.39.

The Board waited to make a motion until after the presentation of the second Façade Grant request.

805 STRUTHERS AVENUE

The Façade Grant subcommittee reviewed a Façade Grant request that was submitted by Ray Rickard, property owner, at 805 Struthers Avenue. The project includes the replacement and addition of windows and doors, and other exterior amenities. The total estimated cost is \$48,664.00 which would qualify for a grant of up to \$10k.

Duncan made a motion to approve Façade Grant requests at 405 Main Street and 805 Struthers Avenue as written up to \$10k each. Maria seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

COVID DISCUSSION

Brandon gave an update on changes and promotions that Downtown Grand Junction is implementing related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enstrom Candies donated several boxes of almond toffee to be utilized by Downtown businesses as promotional giveaways to encourage sales. Additionally, Downtown Grand Junction and Town Square Media have partnered to help stimulate the local economy. Customers would be required to spend \$25 at any Downtown Grand Junction business and then they would receive a \$10 gift card from Downtown Grand Junction.

The Executive Director has authority to authorize up to \$5,000 for this promotion. If any additional funding is needed, the amount would have to be authorized by the Board.

Brandon explained that the City of Grand Junction and Colorado Mesa University are offering an employee incentive program that would encourage shopping at local businesses. Downtown Grand Junction is also offering an incentive to their employees to encourage shopping Downtown.

Board members shared their thoughts and opinions regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting local businesses.

Anna gave an update from the City Council meetings. There was an emergency meeting Monday night where approval was granted to defer all February sales taxes for city businesses. Businesses would still be required to file; however, payment for February or 1st Quarter sales would be deferred at this time. City Council members also approved an emergency declaration officially putting the City of Grand Junction in a state of emergency.

At Wednesday's meeting City Council members discussed a \$4.4 million dollar jobs package; however; the ordinance did not unanimously pass.

Brandon stated that Downtown is moving forward with the necessary approvals for our events. The Grand Junction Off-Road + Downtown Music Festival is scheduled for May 29 - 31, however, the dates may change due to response to COVID-19. A decision will be made by late April. Furthermore, the car show is scheduled for late June and the Market on Main starts in July so it is unlikely those events will be affected.

Due to the COVID-19, Cinco de Mayo would like to reschedule in the fall; however, that may be a challenge due to the number of events that are already on the calendar in the fall.

UPDATES

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Brandon stated that reporter Joe Vaccarelli will be leaving the Daily Sentinel and thanked Joe for his service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business; Maria made a motion to adjourn. Duncan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.