

**MidTown, Inc. Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: President Schladensky called to order the March meeting at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kim Antekeier, Pete Berry, Craig Burgess, Nancy Burgin, Andrew Carpenter, Jennie Hannay, Sean Knox, Chuck McDaniel, Tom McKenna, Gwen Ruff, Muffy Schladensky, A.J. Senior, Judy Tucker, Tripp Wade, Brian Waters Staff: Julio Portillo, Kelley Watts, Bitsy Dedwylder, Sara Carver

MINUTES: Minutes from the January 19th meeting were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL: Chuck McDaniel reviewed the financials, which were accepted as presented. Per our February 2021 Financial Statements, it continues to show that we are slowly starting to earn on our CD's and stocks. Our liabilities are back up as well as our expenses due to current staff and the fact we are back working and working in the office. He did add that we were approved for the PPP Loan Forgiveness. We were approved for the same amount as we were in 2020 for \$41,655.40.

Mr. Portillo announced that we made a few investment changes. We had a CD that matured at Synovus but moved it to Southern States Bank in January & locked it in at 11 months at 0.06%.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Outreach: Mr. Portillo informed everyone that we are scheduled to host our 3<sup>rd</sup> Clean MidTown for Saturday, 4/24 from 9-1 pm. We are still finalizing the details but plan to host it at our office and work the surrounding area. The finalized details for this event will be sent out soon. He also added that the national Bicycle Week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. Mr. Portillo said that we will participate in this by having a MidTown BikeAround like we did in 2019 on Thursday, 5/20 at 6:30 pm. Tuesday of that week is the ride with the mayor, Wednesday- ride in silence, Thursday - MidTown BikeAround and Friday - ride your bike to work.

Economic Development: Mr. Portillo said that he spoke to Pam Hodge and that we are still on schedule and plan on the resurfacing on 13th Street for the summer 2021. This is a 2-part project, the 1<sup>st</sup> part is set to start in the next couple of weeks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part which includes our portion of 13<sup>th</sup> Street that involves GA DOT & Columbus Water Works reaching an agreement on elements of the resurfacing. They are making very good strides and positive progress in their coordination. Pam feels confident that a final agreement should be reached soon.

Mr. Portillo did say that we are continuing to explore ideas for MidTown to partner & be involved in the Victory Community Garden. This is an effort by Turn Around Columbus which will be located behind the Marshall Success Center & J. Davis Elem. School and along MLK Blvd. Judy Tucker has volunteered to be a liaison for this project. She will be forming an outreach committee & will be the point of contact if anyone would like to participate. Mr. Portillo and Judy plan to schedule a walk thru of the property for this project with Turn Around Columbus late March – early April. This will give us a perspective of the magnitude for this project. Please be on the lookout for the invite to join them. However, they are in immediate need of garden tools and shoes. Please bring any items you wish to donate by the office ASAP.

Fundraising/Capital Campaign Committee: Mr. Portillo stated that this committee has agreed on soliciting the professional services from Columbus and The Valley, to develop our marketing pieces. We are currently working on the written content for the fundraising booklet. We are also working on an updated version of our MidTown map and have received drafts of this. We wanted to clean it up, make it more legible, add points of interest and our accomplishments by MidTown. We plan to share any updates, the theme and name for this campaign soon. We are officially set to release this campaign to the public July-August. Mr. Portillo also added that we continue to explore alternatives for the Hilton property and numbers to go with each vision/use. A Hilton Property meeting has not been set but to be on the lookout for a calendar invite.

Mingle Committee: Mr. Portillo was happy to announce that this year's Mingle will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of October which will be 10/14/2021. He reminded the BOD that we plan to be vigilant and follow all protocols needed to reassure everyone's health and safety. We are having a Mingle Committee meeting this upcoming Tuesday, 3/16. Our committee chairman will be Crystal Trawick. The location has yet to be determined but plan to have it set by the end of this month.

MBA Report: Mr. Portillo reported that Columbus Acupuncture and ColGACare are our 2 newest businesses to join the MBA.

Ex-officio: No Reports

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Portillo shared the recap from a meeting we hosted with the Police Chief, Freddie Blackmon and Sgt. Angela Florence. We spoke about the challenges the police department faces with the crime as well as how short staffed the police department is. They are working on a new human resource approach and better recruitment options. They plan to bring back different departments such as officers on bikes. The chief strongly encourages for everyone to get to know their neighbors.

Strategic Plan: Mr. Portillo let the board know that he has emailed our Strategic Plan. He requests that all comments and notes to this be sent back to him by the end of this week. Shana Young will present a virtual presentation of the final copy of the report.

Annual Report: Mr. Portillo and Bitsy are making great progress on our Annual Report. We will combine our Annual Report with our Spring Ask. We plan to bring back our Newsletter as well.

Administrative Updates: Mr. Portillo is shared that he plans to update our website so everything will be synced up. He also added that the staff is beginning the training for Donor Perfect. Donor Perfect can integrate these forms for reports as well as set up online donations including automatic debit.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned by President Schladensky.