

**MidTown, Inc. Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: President-Elect Bean called to order the May meeting at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kim Antekeier, Cameron Bean, Pete Berry, Will Burgin, Andrew Carpenter, Ellie Fober, Mattie Hall, Jennie Hannay, Jim Livingston, Chuck McDaniel, Tyler Pritchard, Amanda Rees, Gwen Ruff, Tripp Wade, Chris Walker, Amy Ward, Brian Waters Staff: Julio Portillo, Bitsy Dedwylder, Sara Carver

MINUTES: Minutes from the March 9th meeting were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL: Chuck McDaniel reviewed the financials, which were accepted as presented. Per our 2021 Financial April 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 Midtown's operating expenses are less than what is budgeted. Also reminded everyone for the approved PPP Loan Forgiveness with the same amount as 2020 which was close to \$45k.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Outreach: Mr. Portillo announced that our 3rd Clean MidTown held on Saturday, 4/24 was a success. We had close to 15 neighbors to volunteer & clean areas around our office, Hilton Ave., 17th Ave., Wildwood Ave. & Forrest Ave. He thanked board members, Lillian Pat Jones & Ellie Fober for representing the board. Also was appreciative of East Highland & Werracoba Neighborhoods & councilman John House and his wife for volunteering. We collected over 18 contractor style trash bags. 12 of those came from Lake Bottom Park. He reminded everyone that national Bicycle Week is the following week. Mr. Portillo encouraged everyone to participate especially with the BikeAround that we are hosting on Thursday, 5/20 at 6:30 pm at Dinglewood Park. The schedule for Bike Week will be ride with the mayor on Tuesday, Wednesday- ride in silence, Thursday - MidTown BikeAround and Friday - ride your bike to work.

Economic Development: Mr. Portillo was happy to report good news for the resurfacing on 13th Street. GA DOT & Columbus Water Works have reached an agreement and its officially on paper & signed. This means the project is set to begin August 2021. This is a large resurfacing project from Weems Road to Veterans Parkway and will include our section of 13th Ave. and 5th Ave.

Bitsy and Julio shared that they had the opportunity to meet with tenants on Wynnton Road (former pet shop) and they wanted our guidance on how they can occupy this space to set up his business where it can elevate Wynnton Rd. and compliment the efforts of the Wynnton Streets Project. Flournoy within TWR is lending her time pro-bono on coming up with ideas and signage to help with this. They want people to get a sense of community which is why they came to MidTown, Inc. We are very grateful for their involvement and will also keep you updated on these new developments.

Mr. Portillo stated that they finally had an onsite walk thru of the Victory Community Garden and that this will be a large yet very impactful project. We are continuing to explore creative ways for how MidTown can partner & be involved. This is an effort by Turn Around Columbus which will be located behind the Marshall Success Center & Davis Elem. School and along MLK Blvd. We plan to share our options once we receive finalized numbers and drawings.

Fundraising/Capital Campaign Committee: Mr. Portillo was pleased to let everyone know that our marketing pieces that Columbus and The Valley is helping us develop is progressing. We are finishing up the written content for the fundraising booklet and the updated version of our MidTown map. Our goal is 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. Mr. Portillo added that our Annual Fund typically kicks off with a Spring Ask that's coming in a couple of weeks. This ties into our Annual Report which is coming together and are pleased with the drafts that we've seen already.

Hilton Property Exploratory Committee: Mr. Portillo also added that we continue to explore alternatives for the Hilton property and numbers to go with 3 types of vision/use scenarios. The 3 visions are housing, commercial and recreation.

Mingle Committee: Mr. Portillo was happy to announce that this year's Mingle will take place on 10/14/2021 hosted at LakeBottom Park. We have already received a tentative verbal agreement from the city and Parks & Rec. This would be a good opportunity for us to go through the park to remove any stumps needed but Trees of Columbus has already received a grant for an outside contractor to come in to help with this. We are beginning to reach out to sponsors and as of now we have secured \$15,000 in sponsorships from TSYS and Synovus. Helen Johnson has agreed to chair the Sponsorship/Fundraising Committee as well as Maudie Huff painting this year's artwork.

MBA Report: No new members to report.

Ex-officio: No Reports

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dragonfly Trails: Mr. Portillo let everyone know that the MLK portion of the Dragonfly Trails is coming along beautifully. They have partnered with A. J. McClung YMCA. They have requested services from a muralist in Philadelphia. His expertise is to create renditions of influencers within the area he is working in. He will be here 6/1/21 to collect information/ideas and plans to do one of A.J. McClung along this part of the trail. We hope to incorporate the Columbus Museum within this project.

Annual Report: Mr. Portillo and Bitsy are making great progress on our Annual Report. We will combine our Annual Report with our Spring Ask. Our goal is to have it completed and mailed out end of this month. 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. As of now Donor Perfect is tied into a bank account we are not wanting to use. We are in the process of changing this. As soon as it's routed to the correct bank account, we will begin to use this. Mr. Portillo ended the meeting with letting everyone know that the staff of MidTown, Inc. is fully vaccinated and continuing to work both remotely and at the office & exercising all safety precautions.

OTHER BUSINESS: President Elect Bean shared our condolences to Mattie Hall on losing her sister.

The meeting was adjourned by President Elect Bean.