

**Columbia Special Business District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 11, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
11 S. Tenth Street**

Present:

Mary Wilkerson, Boone County National Bank
Skip Walther, Walther, Antel, Stamper & Fischer, PC
Leigh Lockhart, Main Squeeze
Blake Danuser, Bingham
Carrie Gartner, Executive Director

Mark Timberlake, Timberlake Engineering
John Ott, The Tiger-Downtown
Rosie Gerding, Gerding, Korte, & Chitwood
Mike Vangel, Vangel Marketing Communications
Erika Kubsch, Assistant Director

Absent:

Chuck Wilms, Engagement Ring Center

Guests:

Bill Rotts, Rotts and Gibbs Law Firm
Zim Schwartze-Columbia Police Department

Kevin Coleman, Columbia Tribune
Amanda Cushner-Columbia Missourian

Call to Order

Wilkerson called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes

Gerding made a motion to accept the August minutes. Wilkerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Gartner reported that there have been some necessary office repairs that were taken care of in August.

Walther made a motion to approve the August financials. Danuser seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Budget –

Gartner stated that Gerding presented the budget to City Council and gave a good overview of why a consultant is necessary to make sure the organization can keep up with the physical changes that are taking place. According to Gartner and Gerding, City Council seemed to support it.

New Business

Newspaper Corrals-

Rotts passed around photos of the newspaper corrals on the Northeast corner of Tenth and Walnut, in front of his building. He pointed out that more newspaper boxes are added every month. He also pointed out the close proximity of the fire hydrant to the newspaper boxes; he thinks that this makes one side of the hydrant unusable. Gartner said that Battalion Chief Steven Sapp is satisfied with the location and there are no obstacles to the fire department. Rotts stated that he just bought his building five years ago and that he has spent a lot of time and money fixing it up, until these newspaper corrals are removed, he does not want to do any landscaping or repair to the front of his property. Rotts stated that he understands that the city must have made a public announcement to place these corrals, but he did not own the building at that time.

Walther pointed out that even those these publications may be an eyesore and a nuisance for Rotts, it would violate these publications First Amendment rights if we banned them from putting their newspapers out. Wilkerson asked what would happen if the corral was removed. Walther stated that they would just strap them to the street light poles. Walther also stated that in order for this issue to be resolved an new ordinance must be put into place. Wilkerson suggested looking to other cities to find something that is working. Gartner stated that cities with bigger budgets than ours have not passed an ordinance like this. Danuser suggested speaking with the major papers, such as the Tribune and the Missourian to see if they would consider moving, maybe the other papers would follow.

Rotts stated that if the corrals were moved he would be willing to pay to improve the sidewalk and possibly pay for the corrals to be relocated. Concern was expressed that public amenities would be moved whenever a business or property changed hands, costing the SBD a considerable amount of money and undercutting the reason why we place

public amenities in downtown. Gartner stated that the goal of the beautification plan was to look at the downtown as a whole, instead of looking at individual businesses. Also, all public amenities are located based on the physical make-up of downtown including the position of meters, yellow zones, trees, width of sidewalks, ADA access, etc. Ott stated that the beautification plan was created seven years ago and that we have to be flexible and willing to change.

Ott made a motion to put together a committee to create an ordinance to maintain corrals.

Walther made a motion to approve this committee. Danuser seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Loading Zones – City Parking has asked for a statement from the board to address how they want to handle loading zones. Wilkerson asked that someone from the parking department come in and talk to the board about this.

Timberlake questioned whether the board really had to look into this. Gartner stated that the board could create a statement saying that they do not deal with loading zones at all. The board asked for a presentation from Parking before making a statement.

Appointment of nomination committee – Ott asked for volunteers. Wilkerson, Danuser, and Lockhart volunteered.

Director's Report

Solid Waste District – Gartner stated that they are getting surveys back and will have results of surveys soon at a committee meeting.

Graffiti Abatement – Ott asked if it is in the city's budget to put cameras around The District. Schwartze stated that there are currently cameras in some of the parking structures and it does help, but it is hard to identify people from them. Gartner stated that money is in the CIP budget to put cameras in other parking garages.

Adjournment

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 9th.