

Business Development Commission (BDC)
MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED

MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 28, 2022
 LOCATION: City Hall/Teleconference
 CALLED TO ORDER: 8:01 AM
 MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:29 AM
 NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, May 26, 2022

Name	Present	Absent
Mike Pincus, Chair (Citizen at Large)		X
Pam Neihaus, Vice Chair (Citizen at Large)	X	
Kara Bowlin (Citizen at Large)		X
Andrew Scavotto (Citizen at Large)	X	
Ceci Bartels (Home-Based Business Owner)	X	
Bud Bellomo (Chamber of Commerce)	X	
Tim Delanty (Old Webster Rep)	X	
Tammy Behm, (Commercial Business Owner)	X	
Erbab Majeede (Commercial Business Owner)		X
Laura Arnold, Council Liaison		X
Eric Peterson, Staff Liaison	X	

Also in Attendance

Jenny Starkey – Director of Public Affairs & Engagement, City of Webster Groves
 Pam Bliss – Council Member, City of Webster Groves
 Detective Paul Boudreau – Community Engagement Officer, Webster Groves Police Department
 Fran Sudekum – Administrative Support

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the March 24th minutes was made by Bud Bellomo, seconded by Tim Delanty, and unanimously approved.
- A motion to approve the April 8th minutes was made by Bud Bellomo, seconded by Tim Delanty, and unanimously approved.

Business Survey Update – The business survey has had a low response rate (only 32 responses thus far). It will be kept open a little longer and an email reminder will be sent our encouraging responses. It will be closed in time to have results for the next BDC meeting. The link is available on the City’s Roundtable page.

Webster Groves Website Update – The revamped website was launched on April 27th. The new .gov URL is in full effect; the former .org URL is redirected to the new URL. Jenny Starkey reviewed the Explore Webster Groves piece of the website. There is a new “News and Announcement” section; events can be featured here, i.e. the Old Orchard Gazebo Series, the Old Webster Jazz and Blues Festival, etc. The information behind the radio buttons on the Explore piece are still a work in progress. The calendar function now has two tabs, one for City events and one for Community Events. Events can be submitted via email to Jenny Starkey. The public do not need to create account.

Business “Bingo” Scavenger Hunt Update – The event is slated to occur on October 1st. Webster Arts and the library have held scavenger hunts recently and could share insight. Going forward, Scavenger Hunt updates will be added to the BDC monthly agenda.

BDC Proposed Business Liaison – The proposal has been submitted in writing to City Council; they have not yet discussed it. The BDC will have an opportunity to present the proposal to City Council in person and answer their questions at the Council's second meeting in May.

Business District Updates

- Old Webster will be addressing the need to repair and/or replace benches throughout the district which are 20+ years old.
- Old Orchard is in the process of adding an additional handicap parking spot next to the existing handicap spot on E. Lockwood.
- Planning continues for the Old Orchard Gazebo Music Series set to take place on Friday evenings in mid-August and September.
- Old Webster and Old Orchard have expanded their streetscape landscaping budgets for next year; sprucing up and adding more beautification to their destinations.
- Crossroads is waiting to hear the results of their grant application for federal funding of their proposed streetscape project.
- Digital Strike is moving forward with their plans to hold a charity Pickleball Tournament in August. Proceeds will benefit the Mighty Oakes Heart Foundation.
- All three business district commissions have vacancies: Old Webster has three, Old Orchard has two, and Crossroads also has two.

City Update

- Detective Paul Boudreau is the new Community Engagement Officer.
- On-street curb-side pickup parking spots are being looked at. Enforcement of ordinances were relaxed during the COVID crisis; it's time to return to a "new" normal for curb-side pickup spots. A meeting will need to take place with businesses to identify how many curb-side pick-up spots are needed and where they will be going forward.
- The business license report of new and closed businesses is available on the City website.
- There are several businesses that haven't paid their business license fees for some time; City staff will step up pursuing those outstanding fees.
- The new City Council was seated on April 19th. New Council liaison assignments on boards and commissions will occur in May; Pam Bliss is expected to be assigned to the BDC.
- Submissions using the Balancing Act Software with the City budget closes today.
- The City budget process has started and will be at City Council's May 3rd meeting. A public hearing will be held in June.
- In the proposed budget, \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan funds have been plugged in as a dedicated Business Development fund. The Council may look to the BDC input on the use of that fund. Next month, the BDC will discuss whether to interact to address this as a whole or establish a Commission Sub-Committee.
- The Sustainability Commission will present and answer questions on their proposed sustainability plan to City Council at the second council meeting in May.

Next Meeting – May 26, 8:00 AM