

**Special Rock Island Downtown Alliance Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 27, 2023 – 3-5 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn, Salon 1 on Second Floor | 226 17<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 100, Rock Island, IL**

**Present:** Arron Sutherland, DeAnna Freeman-Foster, Nicole Watson-Lam, Greg Stecker, Brett Hitchcock, Steven Ratcliff, Ben Fawks, Erica Williams, Amanda Wood, John Chow, Brandy VandeWalle, Todd Thompson

**Absent:** Raja Krishnamurthy

**Guests:** James Blackwell, Ald. Judith Gilbert, Mike Kane, MindFire Communications, Streamline Architects, Veenstra & Kimm | **Staff:** Jack Cullen, Kyle Carter, Jennifer Walker, Jennifer Verscha

**Call Meeting to Order, Approval of June 1 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

*Brett moved to approve the minutes. Steven seconded. Motion passed.*

**Governance & Finance**

**Downtown Alliance Budget & Work Plan**

Rock Island City Council on June 26 approved the Downtown Alliance Budget & Work Plan for fiscal year 2024 and authorized the Board to make amendments to the budget with the exception of changes to add full-time positions or increase the overhead expense.

**Advocacy & Promotions**

**Downtown Alliance Office Space**

The Law Centre, 329 18<sup>th</sup> Street (across 18<sup>th</sup> Street from new Federal Building), has offered free space in support of the downtown Rock Island revitalization efforts since 2021. The property owners are now offering the Downtown Alliance a lease rate of \$800/month with use of one office; three conference rooms, library and kitchen; phone answering system and service, including 309 number and receptionist; printer/copier/scanner; and garage for vehicle parking and equipment/supply storage. Board members agreed The Law Centre option provides affordable value but expressed vision for a more accessible/visible office location. Jack will inquire about short-term rental options at The Law Centre and report back to the Board.

The City of Rock Island is making repairs to the Centennial Bridge Building at 201 15<sup>th</sup> Street and is open to leasing the building to the Downtown Alliance. The property includes office and garage space. Todd said the City would look to recover money invested in improvements with rent. He will gather more information about the project timeline and report back to the Board.

**Downtown Alliance Logo**

MindFire Communications presented two logo options to the Board for review and feedback. One design was described as energetic & modern, and the other design was described as corporate & professional. Board members called for the addition of unique design elements more indicative of downtown Rock Island, such as a detailed rendition of Centennial Bridge and the WHFB-TV tower. Jack, Chamber team and Board members involved in process will work with MindFire on logo and next steps before bringing final logo and colors back to the Board for approval.

**Infrastructure & Livability**

**Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Project**

City of Rock Island consultants Veenstra & Kimm and Streamline Architects presented [updated plans](#) for the more than \$7 million in proposed infrastructure, streetscape and placemaking improvements. Board members

called for the addition of bicycle racks and dumpster enclosures. In addition, Board members asked about the proposed built-in planters and ongoing maintenance. Seasonal, temporary planters are an alternative option to explore. There are similar seasonal, temporary options for public seating. Consultants in coordination with the City and Downtown Alliance will seek additional public input and Council approval on project scope before putting the project out for bid. Based on those results, the City and Downtown Alliance will set priorities for the project, which is expected to take place over two construction seasons 2024-2025. Additional information, including details about the project timeline, phasing and traffic control, will be released as the project proceeds.

*Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.*