

Rock Island Downtown Alliance Board of Directors Meeting
July 18, 2023 – 4 p.m.
Illinois Casualty Company | 225 20th St., Rock Island, IL

Present: Arron Sutherland, Greg Stecker, John Chow, Brett Hitchcock, Brandy VandeWalle, DeAnna Freeman-Foster, Steven Ratcliff, Raja Krishnamurthy, Nicole Watson-Lam

Absent: Amanda Wood, Erica Williams, Todd Thompson, Ben Fawks

Guests: James Blackwell, Ald. Dylan Parker | **Staff:** Jack Cullen, Jennifer Walker

Call Meeting to Order, Approval of June 27 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

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

Advocacy & Promotions

Downtown Alliance Logo Approval

As a follow-up to the presentation at the June 27 meeting, an ad-hoc committee of the Board worked with Jack, the Chamber marketing team and MindFire to incorporate the Board's input into a new logo for the Downtown Alliance. Jack reiterated this is a logo for the place management organization responsible for providing the Downtown Special Service Area activities and programs, not for the downtown area as a destination. Jack then presented the updated logo and color palette (see attached file). No discussion followed.

Greg moved to approve the logo. Brandy seconded. Motion passed.

Downtown Alliance Office Space Approval

As a follow-up to the discussion at the June 27 meeting, Jack worked with the owners of The Law Centre, 329 18th St., on a short-term, turnkey lease agreement while exploring more permanent options, including the City of Rock Island's Centennial Bridge Building, 201 15th St. The Law Centre offered a monthly lease rate of \$800 for use of both office and garage space, \$200 less than what was budgeted each month. Todd will report back on the timeline for use of the Centennial Bridge Building. It was suggested dollars saved on the lease at The Law Centre could be used to furnish the Centennial Bridge Building. The City will look to recoup dollars spent on rehabbing the building by potentially leasing it to the Downtown Alliance.

Raja moved to approve the month-to-month lease at The Law Centre. Steven seconded. Motion passed.

Alternating Currents | Downtown Alliance Launch Party

The Downtown Alliance, with support from the City and a few other sponsors, is programming a few special events as part of Alternating Currents during the weekend of Aug. 17-20. Highlights include a performance by Rock Island native Lisse and her band at Schwiebert Park on Aug. 17. This show will also be the kickoff to the City's Thursday Night Groove concert series. Wake Brewing will be hosting professional wrestling in its lot/patio Aug. 19-20, and there will be two private screenings of a new feature film shot in Aledo, Illinois, at the Center for Living Arts on Aug. 19.

Jack and the Chamber marketing team will plan an official launch party for the Downtown Alliance before the end of this quarter, Sept. 30. Downtown stakeholders will be invited to the event, which will serve as a ribbon cutting-style celebration for the organization and feature food and beverages. Stay tuned for more updates.

Infrastructure & Livability

Clean & Safe Operations

Jack presented an update on Downtown Alliance Clean & Safe Operations. The goal is to launch operations by Sept. 30 in alignment with the Launch Party. The Downtown Alliance is accepting applications for the

Operations Manager position and is finalizing an agreement with Express Employment Professionals to hire Cleaning Ambassadors. Jack is also beginning to order supplies and equipment for cleaning and maintenance services and is working with local suppliers. In addition, a draft services agreement between the City and the Downtown Alliance is in the works to further outline the cleaning and maintenance responsibilities of the Downtown Alliance. A security company that provided service for the City during Red, White & Boom at Schwiebert Park will be consulted to discuss potential preventative safety/security measures in the downtown.

Other Business

Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Project

In coordination with the Downtown Alliance, the City and its consultants Veenstra & Kimm and Streamline Architects are reviewing public input on the proposed downtown improvements at the June 27 public meeting and subsequent community survey. There was strong, standing room-only attendance at the public meeting at the Holiday Inn and close to 450 survey completions. A summary of the results and next steps will be presented at a City Council Study Session on Monday, July 24.

Brandy VandeWalle asked about community feedback on the proposed roundabout at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and 18th Street. The majority of survey respondents showed support for the proposed traffic control measure that aims to enhance pedestrian safety in the area and serve as a centerpiece fixture in the core of downtown. Brandy also questioned a comment made by a City Engineer at the June 27 Board meeting regarding the purpose of a roundabout in this location and whether it would deter vehicle traffic, which would impact businesses in the area. Jack said he would ask the City Engineer for additional context.

City grants for businesses

As a reminder, the City of Rock Island has [two grant programs](#) to support business and economic growth and is accepting intake forms from those with prospective projects.

Adjourn

Greg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steven seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



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Chamber Navy
PANTONE 281 C
CMYK 100 86 32 21
RGB 0 52 104
HEX #1c3766



RI Red
PANTONE 1806C
CMYK 0 100 100 12
RGB 211 25 32
HEX #d31920



RI Gold
PANTONE 130 C
CMYK 0 30 100 0
RGB 253 185 19
HEX #fdb913



Chamber Light Blue
PANTONE XXX C
CMYK 45 20 3 0
RGB 35 134 193
HEX #89b2d9