

Downtown Odessa, Inc.

Minutes for July 11, 2023

Council Chambers

Present: Greg Connell, Tisha Crow, Cruz Castillo, Kira Boen, Shawn Rodriguez, Anthony Rios, Bradley Marquez, Craig Stoker

Absent: Chris Hanie

1. Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2023 – Board approves June minutes.
2. Review of June 2023 Financials – ED Prieto went over financials for the month of June. ED Prieto explained we are still showing a negative from the purchase from the barricades. Payments still coming through and money going out, we will have a better view of this by the end of the month of July.
3. New Business:
 - a. E & L Home Builders – ED Prieto presented info on a new company that has applied for a DOI grant for the Jim’s Big and Tall building. They have submitted bids for both façade and the infrastructure, the bid for façade paperwork was good but the bid paperwork for infrastructure was denied because it was turned in as being done by one builder and it has been denied. ODC needs this bid to be redone and has asked it to be done as separate bids because he is not licensed in each of these areas. This has been done and submitted, we are now waiting on an appointment.
4. 2023 Event Update Discussion:
 - a. Farmers Market (Partnered Event) – ED Prieto discussed Farmers Market has cancelled the July and August dates. But they still plan to have this event September and October. As we get the new dates, we will update the board.
 - b. First Fridays – still planning to proceed with this partnered event with Odessa Arts and will start August 4th.
 - c. Low Riders Against Bullying (Partnered event) – ED Prieto discussed that we are working on the contract for this partnered event still looks good for August 19th.
 - d. Team Texas (Discover Odessa) – ED Prieto discussed that this event has been cancelled. Team Texas was wanting to use this event to bring people to Odessa. But they have decided that they are afraid that people may only remember Odessa for the heat. It is going to happen but will not be a Downtown partnered event, they have decided to move this event inside.
 - e. State of Downtown – ED Prieto discussed that this event is still on track for September 14 we still have in place the vendors and will be working on this going forward.
 - f. Tacos & Tequila (Partnered Event) – September 16 – This event still is on track permits are done and everything in place.
 - g. Treats on the Streets – October 31st - Moving forward with this event as planned.
 - h. Parade of Lights – December 2nd - This event will be held as scheduled, no new details so far.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Events

- i. Firecracker Fandango 2023
 1. NB Ridaz – language used during the performance – ED Prieto discussed the concerns about this. We did get the letter signed and all was ok about the no profanity issue. All went very well; this event was a huge success.
 2. Volunteers – ED Prieto discussed issues with trash and our shortage of volunteers, this was the only concern. We feel we could have used more containers; the crowd was very large, and it was just very difficult to get to trash to be able to keep picked up. We need more volunteers and containers to be able to possibly avoid this. All board members talked about their different ideas on what can be done. Board member Boen asked if there is anything that the board should be doing on their part to help with this volunteer issue? All board members agreed it is a responsibility of board members to help with volunteering. Board members discussed this event fell on a weekend that was a long holiday weekend and we just did not have good response to emails that were sent out. Board member Rios brought up that we need to get together a list of numbers of businesses of downtown. There were multiple buildings downtown that needed things done to be ready for Fandango but he was unable to reach them. ED Prieto explained this is something that we are currently working on. General feeling from all of board is that event was a success.
 - b. Discussion of grants and status updates:
 - i. Par II – Work has been started on this one.
 - ii. Pedi Cardio – They do have an extension. Second floor they will be making into office space. First floor they want to make into a restaurant.
6. Comments or suggestion of future agenda items – Board Chair Rodriquez gave thanks to all board members for the great support that was given for the Fandango event. Special thanks to board member Rios and businessman John Herriage for their support during event. Board member Stoker explained that he has spoken with KOB to get proposal for TIRZ.

-Next Meeting, Tuesday, August 8, 2023