

BID Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025

In Attendance: Leanne, Rachael, Pat, Shannon, Gail, Kenny, Glenn, Erik, Sara, Carrie, Tammy S.

Absent: Michelle, Zach, Shelly, Akari

Call to Order: 8:32 AM

Sara called the meeting to order.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 2025:

Glenn motioned to approve the minutes, Pat seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Glenn spoke briefly about the financials. There were no questions about items. It was discussed that Glenn and Shannon are trying to find a way to track events by income and expenses. Also, Freed Maxick has one month to get rid of "Other Expenses" on the general ledger. Shannon also explained that the proposed budget for tax/accounting is going to be off this year because they have always filed an extension in previous years, but this year they were filed on time. Going forward it will be lower.

Mike Stasko has contacted the BID and will be sponsoring Jackson Square summer concerts and Christmas in the City this year. He wants to arrange to have reindeer for kids to ride downtown.

Glenn motioned to approve the budget, Pat and Tammy seconded, all in favor.

Board Director Update:

Shannon reported that she and Zach had a meeting with the City for the proposed open container law in the BID District. They plan to call it the "Social District" with the same footprint as the BID. The open container ban will be lifted so that permits won't be required for every event. The proposal is to make the hours of open container from Noon to 10 pm each day. The police provided input and said that they have not had any issues with previous events with open containers. City Council and executive members seemed to be in support of the proposal, but the conversation will be ongoing.

Shannon reminded everyone again that the BID's Annual Meeting will be held April 10th at Center Street Smokehouse from 5-7 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to come. It's a fun, laidback event where you can meet other business owners. There are several new businesses who are planning to attend so please come out to meet them and make them feel welcome.

Chamber & BDC Update:

Shannon suggested that for efficiency of the meetings, the Chamber and the BDC updates will be quarterly instead of monthly. This will help to keep meetings shorter and avoid redundancy. Both are welcome to come to every meeting and to contact Shannon if there is something pressing to report.

Committee Updates:

Flowers were ordered for the hanging baskets and planters downtown from Fenton's Farm. They have offered to come and plant them for us. New American flags are being ordered since a large number of the old ones have been tattered over the years. The old ones that go out for holidays were given to the BID by the Jaycees many years ago and are also in need of replacement. And on the subject of downtown beautification, there were a few issues with Christmas lights on the poles going out due to an electrical issue. Rachel said she will look into the best way to handle ensuring that they look good all season. Perhaps solar lights are in order or someone needs to look into the electrical issues.

City Update:

Rachael discussed several new updates including a few different NYS funding increases for Batavia, the AIM funding and VLT which is good news. These have stayed the same over the past few years. The City settled its lease with Main St 56 Theater. All other spots in the mall are now sold. The Brisbane Mansion, the former police headquarters, is up for RFP. Thoughts are to make it a boutique hotel or apartments. April 25th is the DRI 2.0 walking tour and all board members are invited to join in. The GCEDC has their annual meeting after the tour. A \$250,000 grant for the City Centre was matched by the City to upgrade bathrooms by Sunnys, improve the concourse flooring, ceiling and lights, and to utilize the space for events.

After her update there was a discussion about two proposals made to City Council that are not directly in the BID District but certainly have potential to impact all businesses downtown due to the proximity of the proposals. The Presbyterian Church, on the edge of the BID District, has proposed making a warming shelter in conjunction with Oak Orchard Health. One exists in Orleans County and a second has been proposed here. GCASA, no Uconnect Care submitted a request to install a needle exchange site at their location on Main St. After some discussion, a motion was made by Sara, seconded by Gail and Carrie to write a letter to GCASA from the BID Board condemning the needle exchange for the sake of downtown businesses. The board also discussed writing a letter to Oak Orchard about BIDs concern regarding the warming shelter due to its proximity to downtown businesses. The motion was made by Glen, Tammy seconded, approved by Carrie, Leane, Kenny, Rachael, Gail, and Sara. Pat opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Pat, seconded by Tammy S and approved by all. 9:37 AM. Thank you everyone for coming to the meeting!

