

The Rail District Merchants' Association
5 December 2023

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order

Introductions of individuals present

Presentation of Slate for 2024 Board Election

President- Rick Kauten, Artistic Organics

Vice President – Vacant

Treasurer – Janet Stork, Stonebriar Medical

Secretary – Marianne Nassef, eight|11 place

Scott Hoffner nominated from the floor for Vice President

Motion made and seconded to approve the slate

Approved by unanimous vote

Report from Downton Advisory Board presented by Rick Kauten

-DAB is working through recommendations from Consultant group and relooking at their strategic purpose; looking to include more Rail District residents on board

-Discussion of nomination process to be on board—nominations accepted by the city in July

Treasurer Report by Janet Stork

-\$6500 budget required for 2024 basic expenditures

-currently have 7 paid members

-StrEATS fund at \$24,000; budgeted for deposits for tent rentals, musicians, etc.

-Dave from Three Empires requested a report of budget, cash flow and reserves. Will be presented at next meeting

Chamber Report by Maureen

-Open House at Chamber on Thursday, 7 Dec from 2:30-6:30 to show off Main Street and Elm Street Plaza construction plans; all invited and encouraged to attend

Tree Lighting Event report by Scott Hoffner

-Scheduled for 9 Dec 23 at Randy's Steakhouse

Dog rescue, noon to 4pm

Food, Crafts and Music from 3:30-5:30

Tree Lighting at 5:30

-Chamber recommends submitting event to City Calendar

-\$500 approved by RDMA for reimbursement for expenses for event

Janet noted event not approved by RDMA prior to expenditures; Marianne raised concern about precedent being set for events committing funds prior to approval by RDMA; Rick indicated RDMA would plan better in the future

Heritage Association Report – Donna

- New Frisco cookbook being planned – request for recipes to be collected from Dec to Jan 31.

Presentation – Gloria Salinas, Economic Development Council --Downtown Investment Zone Pilot Program

- Has been commissioned to focus on reinvestment in Rail District with emphasis on “creative class” and “start-up” business
- Allocating funds to invest in commercial property and infrastructure supporting above businesses
- Expect second half of 2024 for applications to be released for matching grant requests (split between city and property owner)
- will need to meet 2018 Master Plan architectural standards
- RDMA members can assist by coming to City Council Winter Work Session 18-19 Jan and providing public input/support for EDC plan

Open Floor Discussion

- Possible Guest Speaker, Texas Workforce Commission, Stephanie Waggoner
- Next Meeting: 9 January at 0830 at Chamber of Commerce; note deviation from normal 1st Tuesday of the month meeting date

Respectfully submitted.

Marianne Nassef
RDMA Secretary