



Riverfront Improvement Commission

Minutes

September 26, 2023

Present: Randall Goblirsch, Kelli Grubbs, Gwendolyn Lee, Scott Pettis, Mary Pruess, Roma Taylor, and Julie Tonn.

Others Present: Christopher Meyer, Parks Liaison; Courtney Jones, Administrative Services Manager and Staff Liaison; Stephanie Bley, Riverfront Community Engagement Coordinator; Chad Dyson, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Clay Merritt, Assistant Public Works Director.

Chairwoman Lee called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Lee asked for approval of the minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting. Grubbs moved to approve the minutes; Pettis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business

An election was held for the Vice Chair position. Grubbs moved to nominate Bruemmer for Vice Chair; Tonn seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Commission reviewed the Mississippi Valley Blues Society Lease. Grubbs moved to approve the lease; Goblirsch seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

Director of Parks and Recreation, Chad Dyson, provided an update on the Nature Play area at Credit Island, as well as an anticipated timeline for completion in spring of 2024.

Assistant Director of Public Works, Clay Merritt, gave a presentation on the FY 2025 Capital Budget Process and reviewed a list of proposed CIPs.

Staff Liaison, Courtney Jones, updated the commission on the status of the Taste of Ethiopia lease. Jones recommended a rent increase of 5% for consistency between tenants. The lease will be brought forward for approval at the October meeting.

Future Business

Riverfront Community Engagement Coordinator, Stephanie Bley, shared plans for a trolley tour of the City-owned riverfront buildings and businesses. The tour will be in lieu of a November commission meeting. Additional details will be distributed via email.

Jones shared that at a future meeting she would like to bring in a guest speaker to provide details of the Fehr Graham study and the long-term development of Union Station.

Management Update

Bley provided an update on the upcoming Fright House After Dark event, running every Friday in the month of October.

Jones provided an update on the Riverfront Community Engagement survey that will be launched in October 2023.

Park Liaison Report

Parks Advisory Board Liaison, Christopher Meyer, provided an update on elections for the Park Advisory Board, noting that he will continue to serve as the Parks Liaison to the Riverfront Improvement Commission.

No public comments were made, and with no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Gwendolyn Lee, Chair