

**Minutes of Quarterly Meeting
Newton Downtown SSMID Board
Community Development Office – Building 18 in Legacy Plaza
5th Floor, Large Conference Room**

August 8, 2023

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: R. O'Brien; J. Maki; S. Forbes Winchell ABSENT: J. Prendergast; A. Leber

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist; Erin Yeager, Main Street

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. by Chair O'Brien.

Review of Minutes. The Minutes of the SSMID Board Meeting on May 9, 2023 were reviewed and approved. MOTION by Maki, seconded by Winchell, to approve the Minutes. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

Finance Report. The July 31, 2023 Finance Report was reviewed and approved, following a short discussion of the Ending Fund Balance and a reminder by Armstrong that the SSMID Finance Report is presented on a Fiscal Year basis, while SSMID operates on a calendar year basis. MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Maki, to approve the Finance Report. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

New Business.

a. Discussion: Commitment of funds to enhance Harmony Park. O'Brien noted that the SSMID board could approve the purchase of sculpture, benches, flower pots or other enhancements. Yeager suggested that a decision of the Harmony Park beautification project be deferred after the first of the new year, as that's when a clearer picture will emerge of what will be included and what additional needs there will be at the park. MOTION by O'Brien, seconded by Winchell, that the SSMID board set aside \$6,000.00 for the purchase of 10 flower pots and as many benches as will round out to \$6,000.00, for the SSMID District, and \$4,000.00 for a "To Be Determined" beautification project in Harmony Park. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

b. Other. Maki suggested that SSMID check out the process to expand the District to include Legacy Plaza and asked Armstrong to a proposed strategy and map available to aid in a further discussion of an expansion proposal. There was consensus for this suggestion.

Old Business.

a. Downtown Beautification Infrastructure (flags, benches, flower pots, etc.) – Summer '23 Update. There was consensus that the current status of the downtown flags, benches, flower pots and floral displays is excellent.

b. Christmas Decorations – Maintenance status; attachment hardware ordered? (Prendergast). O'Brien requested that a discussion of the status of the Christmas Decorations be added to the SSMID board's February 13, 2024 meeting Agenda, based on the results of the Holiday Season 2023 display. There was consensus that the Decorations had the potential to create an ongoing liability concern, due to fixtures falling from poles. O'Brien asked Armstrong to check on the legality of the SSMID board donating the fixtures to Friends of Newton Parks for use in the annual Maytag Park Christmas Lights display.

c. Other. None.

Good of the Order. None.

Adjournment: At 9:04 a.m. – MOTION by Maki, seconded by Winchell. Voice Vote (Unanimous).