



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 19, 2022 8:00 AM
BUP Conference Room

- 8:00** **Welcome** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:00** **Approval of Minutes**
- 8:05 - 8:15** **Marketing/Arts & Entertainment** (*Stephanie Coppula, Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:15 – 8:20** **Maintenance** (*Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:20 – 8:30** **Mobility** (*Kristen Blackmon*)
- 8:30 – 8:40** **Financial Report**
- Financial Statements – June 30, 2022 (*Brian Wynne, Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:40 – 8:50** **Executive Director Report** (*Jeff Burton*)
- 8:50 – 9:00** **Chairman’s Report** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- Committee Reports
- 9:00 - 9:15** **Other Business**
- 9:15** **Adjourn**

BETHESDA URBAN PARTNERSHIP, INC.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
July 19, 2022

Board Members Present: Jane Fairweather, Marian Block, Brian Wynne, Katya Marin, Bob Donohoe, Cherian Thomas, Chris Smith and Pete Fosselman

Staff Present: Jeff Burton, Stephanie Coppula and Kristen Blackmon

Guests Present: T.J. Dant – BCC Regional Services Center

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Jane Fairweather

Minutes:

Jane Fairweather called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 22, 2022 Board of Director's meeting minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Report:

Stephanie Coppula reported that the Garage #11 mural has been completed and a dedication ceremony was held last week with County Executive Elrich, Councilmember Friedson and Robert Kronenberg from Park & Planning in attendance as well as the mural artist and his family. There was a discussion about the possibility of putting QR codes on each of the public murals that people could click on and get more information about the project, the artist and the story behind the design of each mural. Cherian Thomas offered to help implement this.

S. Coppula noted that the Summer Movie Series is back on the calendar and there will be outdoor movies shown on Norfolk Avenue next Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday night concerts at the Streetry continue until early August. We will take a few weeks break later in August and bring back several more concerts in September.

The marketing staff is busy planning for Taste of Bethesda which will be held the first Saturday in October. The staff is busy signing up restaurants and securing sponsors.

The RFP for the strategic plan has gone out and we are waiting on responses. We have received one back so far and expect to get two more. The proposals will then be reviewed by the Strategic Plan Committee.

Maintenance Report:

Jeff Burton noted all of the maintenance highlights can be found in the Board report. J. Burton noted that June was full of the normal summer activities. They included, weeding, mowing, brick repairs, power washing and sanding and refinishing all of the circulator benches.

J. Burton noted that we have hired a Field Operations Manager and he started yesterday. He has past BID experience with the Golden Triangle.

Mobility Report:

J. Burton gave the mobility report in Kristen Blackmon's absence by highlighting several items in the monthly report. The BTS team continues to reach out to residential buildings and work with companies on the traffic mitigation plans.

Financial Report:

Brian Wynne presented the financial statements for the year ended June 30. B. Wynne noted that the figures being reported are very close to final for the year but there are still several outstanding invoices that have not come in yet. B. Wynne noted that revenue ended up \$109,000 under budget for the year due mainly to the cancellation of the Taste of Bethesda as well as lower than budgeted revenue from street sweeping and trash removal. The Bethesda Fine Arts Festival revenue also came in under budget. The reduction in revenue has been more than offset by a reduction in expenses which are \$350,000 under budget for the year. That results in revenue over expenses for the year of \$248,000. These funds will go in the operating reserve for the time being. B. Wynne reminded that Board that \$115,000 of this has already been approved by the Board to be spent on a new website, a new marketing video and holiday decorations. B. Wynne reported that BTS will also end the year with revenue over expenses of \$78,000 due mainly to a staffing vacancy for a majority of the year.

B. Wynne noted that at the September Board meeting we will discuss and approve the year-end audit and have a discussion about the reserve. It was noted that these funds will be added to the reserve but that approximately \$260,000 has been spent from reserves in FY22 so the FY22 ending reserve balance will not change significantly from last year.

Executive Director Report:

J. Burton reported that Streeter design proposal has made it successfully through all of the necessary County departments. There is a meeting tomorrow with the individuals from the County who are working on the CIP for the permanent Streeter implementation. We already have some of the furniture and pricing identified so if we are given the go ahead at the meeting tomorrow, we hope to start the implementation of the first block as soon as possible. There was then a discussion about the Woodmont Avenue Streeter concerning whether or not that street should remain closed or be reopened. J. Burton noted that BUP will support whatever the Department of Transportation decides to do.

Chairman's Report:

No committee reports.

Other Business:

No new business

Next Meeting: September 20, 2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 20, 2022 8:00 AM
BUP Conference Room

- 8:00** **Welcome** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:00** **Approval of Minutes**
- 8:05 - 8:15** **Marketing/Arts & Entertainment** (*Stephanie Coppula, Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:15 – 8:20** **Maintenance** (*Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:20 – 8:30** **Mobility** (*Kristen Blackmon*)
- 8:30 – 8:50** **Financial Report**
- Financial Statements – August 31, 2022 (*Brian Wynne, Jeff Oyer*)
 - FY22 Audit Approval (*Brian Wynne, Bob Donohoe*)
 - Reserve Discussion (*Brian Wynne, Bob Donohoe*)
 - FY24 Budget Submission (*Brian Wynne, Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:50 – 9:00** **Executive Director Report** (*Jeff Burton*)
- Strategic Planning Committee
- 9:00 – 9:10** **Chairman’s Report** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- Committee Reports
 - Establishment of Interview Committee
 - Approval of BTS Advisory Board Member
- 9:10 - 9:15** **Other Business**
- 9:15** **Adjourn**

BETHESDA URBAN PARTNERSHIP, INC.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2022

Board Members Present: Jane Fairweather, Brian Wynne, Katya Marin, Bob Donohoe, Cherian Thomas, Chris Smith, Susan Lennon, Dan Schlaff and Pete Fosselman

Staff Present: Jeff Burton, Stephanie Coppula, Kristen Blackmon and Jeff Oyer

Guests Present: Matt Johnson – Montgomery County DOT
Ben Coon -

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Jane Fairweather

Minutes:

Jane Fairweather called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 19, 2022 Board of Director’s meeting minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Report:

Stephanie Coppula noted that Taste of Bethesda is being held on Saturday, October 1. It will be the first time since 2019. There will be 40 restaurants participating as well as five entertainment stages. We have also secured several cash and media sponsors. Beer and wine will be served for the first time.

The Trawick Prize exhibit is currently at Gallery B. This is the 20th year of the Trawick Prize. There was an opening reception where the winners were announced last week.

The Outdoor Movie Series was also held again this year in July for the first time since 2019 and the second of three Yappy Hours was held last week in Elm Street Park.

Maintenance Report:

Jeff Oyer noted all of the maintenance highlights can be found in the Board report. J. Oyer noted that July and August were full of the normal summer activities. They included, weeding, mowing, brick repairs and watering.

J. Oyer reported that the Streetery on Norfolk Avenue is still going well. Demand has reduced slightly so we are no longer closing Cordell Avenue on Friday night but Norfolk Avenue remains very busy. The last summer concert was held this past week.

J. Fairweather questioned the status of the rodent control efforts. J. Oyer reported that standard traps and powders are still being used. We have now had about 6 visits at night from the dogs who are catching the rodents. That seems to be working and their numbers have been increasing. We have three more of those treatments scheduled and then we will have to make a determination on whether to continue that service. We have not received any complaints recently directly from constituents or from the County so hopefully that means our

efforts are working. Susan Lennon noted that even though we have added metal liners that the rodents are still able to climb on the outside of the cans and get in. Staff will look into possible options that might eliminate their ability to do that.

Cherian Thomas noted that there were some concerns within his neighborhood on what appears to be an uptick in crime throughout Bethesda and wondered if BUP was seeing the same thing. J. Burton noted that it depends on who you are talking to noting that the perception from the public is there has been a definite increase and that there is more discussion about it on social media. The police department feels that these things run in cycles and that the most recent activity is not that highly unusual. J. Burton noted that in the past (pre-Covid) there was a CBD leadership group that discussed items like this and that he and Allie Williams are working to get the group back together and that this will certainly be a topic of discussion. S. Lennon noted that she and other business owners see a much smaller police presence in the area and that deterrence can play a huge roll in crime prevention. J. Burton reported that there is clearly a smaller presence in the evenings from the police and it is directly attributed to a lack of resources and officers available. We can use the leadership group to discuss this and possibly ask for a greater presence. Pete Fosselman confirmed that there is a major lack of resources and manpower within the police department right now. P. Fosselman suggested that a letter to the County Council from BUP supporting the need for more police officers may help with efforts to get the Council to secure more funding for the police department. BUP can invite the new Commander to the next Board meeting and we can further discuss how we can better support the police department.

Mobility Report:

K. Blackmon noted that all of the BTS activities this past month can be found in the Board packet. This coming Thursday is Car Free Day and staff will be at the Metro Station encouraging commuters to pledge to go “car free” and thanking those who are riding the Metro for using public transportation.

BTS is working with WABA to hold an adult cycling class at the BCC Rescue Squad on October 8. BTS is also working on the upcoming Walk & Ride event that will take place for a week in mid-October.

J. Fairweather asked if there is any way to prohibit scooters on the sidewalks noting that they are very fast and dangerous and they are making walking on the sidewalks dangerous as well. J. Fairweather suggested possible signage throughout the downtown noting that these scooters are prohibited on sidewalks. It was noted that these scooters are prohibited on the sidewalks and that it is more of an enforcement issue. J. Burton noted that this should also be a discussion for the CBD leadership once that meeting is scheduled.

Financial Report:

Brian Wynne presented the financial statements for the two months ended August 31 noting that being only two months into the year that there is very little in the way of variances so a narrative was not prepared. As of August 31, revenue is \$6,000 over budget and expenses are \$6,000 under budget. There is a large negative variance in maintenance salaries and benefits due to a \$16,000 expense for a search firm that was not budgeted.

B. Wynne noted that the Finance Committee met last week to review a draft of the FY22 audit. The audit has an unqualified opinion which is what we are looking for and there were a couple of reclassifications but no audit adjustment. B. Wynne reviewed several of the highlights of the audit including the management discussion and analysis as well as year-end

results and cash position. B. Wynne noted that the numbers are very much in line with what was discussed in July for year-end results. B. Wynne noted that the only real difference between the pre and post audit numbers are the expenditures out of the reserve in FY22 that were not reflected in the monthly Board reports but were then expensed for audit purposes. Bob Donohoe noted that the Finance Committee has thoroughly evaluated and reviewed the draft audit and is confident in recommending that the draft audit be approved by the Board. There was a motion and a second to approve the draft audit for FY22 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Wynne discussed the status of the reserve reviewing BUP's current reserve balance and reminding the Board that the reserve is broken into three buckets; 1) capital equipment, 2) special projects, and 3) operating. B. Wynne reported that the money that was earmarked in the special projects bucket has all been spent and that there is about \$100,000 left in the capital equipment bucket. The rest of the funds are currently in the operating bucket. B. Wynne noted that there is going to be \$50,000 needed to pay for the strategic plan consultant and that there are numerous vehicles that BUP would like to purchase in FY23 if inventory becomes available. B. Wynne noted that the Finance Committee is recommending moving \$50,000 into the special projects bucket and \$200,000 into the capital equipment bucket out of the operating expense bucket to cover these anticipated FY23 expenditures. B. Donohoe noted once again that the Finance Committee has thoroughly reviewed the reserve activity and is in support of these reallocations. A motion was made and seconded to move the reallocation of the funds within the reserve buckets as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Wynne reported that BUP staff has been working on a proposed FY24 budget submission to the County that needs to be approved by the BUP Board. In general, BUP is asking for an average of a 6% increase across the board to cover inflation which results in requesting a \$205,000 increase for BUP operations. The budget submission also includes a \$600,000 one-time amount to purchase 240 recycling cans for the Urban District and a \$100,000 one-time purchase of additional eco-friendly planters. If those funds are approved, the budget submission includes an additional request of \$55,000 for annual operations for one more maintenance employee to cover the increased work load that would result of putting out 240 recycling cans in the downtown. B. Wynne noted that the circulator contract is also up for renewal. Staff has been working with Montgomery County DOT to add funding to the new circulator contract to accommodate the purchase of electric vehicles to use on the route. That requires an additional \$308,000 to be added to the FY24 budget submission. In summary, the FY24 budget submission including a 6% operating increase to keep up with inflation and two one-time expenses for recycling can and planters and a one-time increase for electric busses for the circulator route. A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY24 budget request. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Burton reminded the Board that BUP is currently in negotiations to extend its office lease for 11 more years. The County requires all contractors to have a clause in all contracts that are longer than one year to have a provision that says if the County does not continue funding in future years that the contract that was signed by the contractor is null and void. When the original lease was signed with B.F. Saul this provision was included in the lease agreement. B.F. Saul is hesitant to add this provision to the lease amendment since BUP's reauthorization runs out at the end of calendar year 2023. The current lease amendment includes \$400,000 in tenant improvement and B.F. Saul does not want to spend \$400,000 without knowing whether or not BUP will be reauthorized next year. B.F. Saul will add the language about the lease being null and void if BUP is not funded by the County in the future if BUP is willing to add a provision to guarantee repaying \$250,000 of the leasehold improvements. Once BUP is reauthorized in FY24, this repayment provision will be removed from the lease. It was noted that the Finance Committee has also met and discussed and is in favor of approving this provision in the lease. A motion was made and seconded to approve guaranteeing to repay up

to \$250,000 of the tenant improvement up until the time that BUP is reauthorized in January 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report:

J. Burton reported that Strategic Planning Committee met to review the three proposals that were received to facilitate and conduct BUP's upcoming strategic planning process as part of BUP pending reauthorization process that is beginning next year. The Strategic Planning Committee reviewed all three proposals and is making a recommendation to the Board to engage PUMA at a cost of \$50,000 - \$55,000. A motion was made and seconded to hire PUMA to conduct the strategic plan and use funds from the special projects reserve bucket to pay for this contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Presentation:

At this time Matt Johnson from Montgomery County DOT and their consultant Bob Koon, made a presentation to the Board to introduce and discuss the study that the County is now undertaking to study the possibility of returning several of the streets within the Urban District that are currently one way back into two-way streets. This study was suggested as part of the most recent downtown master plan. M. Johnson and B. Koon discussed which roads and the process the County was using and encouraged the BUP Board to provide feedback.

Chairman's Report:

J. Fairweather noted the Bob Donohoe and Andy Jones second terms on the BUP Board are set to expire at the end of October. Montgomery County has advertised for candidates to serve as OMD representatives to fill these vacancies. They will need to be interviewed and an interview committee needs to be established. J. Fairweather, B. Wynne and Chris Smith volunteered to serve on the interview committee. Staff will work to coordinate the interview process.

J. Fairweather noted that the Board packet contained the resume of an individual who is applying to serve on the BTS Advisory Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the application. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

No new business

Next Meeting: October 18, 2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 18, 2022 8:00 AM
BUP Conference Room

- 8:00** **Welcome** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:00** **Approval of Minutes**
- 8:00 – 8:20** **Presentation/Discussion**
- Discussion: 2nd District Commander - Captain Amy Daum
- 8:20 - 8:30** **Marketing/Arts & Entertainment** (*Stephanie Coppula, Jane Fairweather*)
- 8:30 – 8:35** **Maintenance** (*Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:35 – 8:40** **Mobility** (*Kristen Blackmon*)
- 8:40 – 8:50** **Financial Report**
- Financial Statements – September 30, 2022 (*Brian Wynne, Jeff Oyer*)
- 8:50 – 9:00** **Executive Director Report** (*Jeff Burton*)
- 9:00 – 9:10** **Chairman’s Report** (*Jane Fairweather*)
- Committee Reports
 - Interview Committee Update
- 9:10 - 9:15** **Other Business**
- 9:15** **Adjourn**