



February 7, 2024, Board Meeting

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

GBX Group

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In attendance:

SAIC Board: Edna T. Akrish, Clark Broida, Greg Deming, Chad Jones, Dan LaGuardia, Dominic Ozanne II, Karen Perkowski, Alex Ragon, and Antonin Robert

Staff: Emily Dahnert and Mark Lammon

- I. Introductions Karen Perkowski
 - a. **There is a quorum present** for the SAIC board meeting.
 - b. Karen Perkowski calls the meeting to order.

- II. December Board Meeting Minutes Karen Perkowski
 - a. Dan LaGuardia motions to approve the December board meeting minutes. Antonin Robert seconds the motion. **The motion to approve the December board meeting minutes passes.**

- III. Financial Review Mark Lammon
 - a. Mark Lammon recently deposited an additional assessment of \$115,000 that came through from the City of Cleveland.
 - b. A basic financial snapshot is provided in the board packet.
 - i. If the SAIC were to dissolve, then it would need to have at least three months of expenses in reserve.
 - ii. Clean & Safe bills from Downtown Cleveland, Inc. typically come due two months after the services are completed.
 - c. There are several options that the SAIC can pursue to spend some of the extra cash it has on hand.

- IV. Neighborhood Block Party Discussion Dan LaGuardia
 - a. Dan LaGuardia, Amanda LaGuardia, and Mark Lammon got together to discuss the Superior Block Party.
 - i. They decided that September is not the best time to hold it since students from the district are not involved, and the weather is not always favorable.
 - ii. They are considering moving the event to June or not holding it at all this year.
 - iii. The desire for the event is there, but given its low attendance last year, it does not seem feasible to hold it this year.
 - b. Last year, Campus District contributed \$20,000 to event costs, while CrossCountry Mortgage purchased a \$5,000 sponsorship.
 - i. To make the event financially feasible, based on the effort put forth by Dan and Amanda LaGuardia, they would need to bring in at least \$30,000.
 - ii. Last year's event is partially accounted for in this year's Campus District budget since costs were higher than anticipated.

- iii. Alex Ragon wonders about getting the event to eventually break even.
 - c. Dan LaGuardia thinks that it would be important to expand the event for it to become successful.
 - i. AsiaTown's Night Market used to have great attendance.
 - ii. Dan and Amanda LaGuardia tried to get artists from the Superior Arts District involved but did not have the leverage to charge for booths.
 - iii. Cleveland Bazaar could take over the artist portion since they have a great following.
 - d. There will not be a Superior Block Party held this year (within the next six months).
 - i. There can be a conversation about continuing the event during the next budget cycle. A committee can be set up to help advise the board.

V. Superior Landscaping

Mark Lammon

- a. Mark Lammon recently received a quote to landscape Superior Ave.
 - i. The landscaping would remain within the special improvement district area and would run down both sides of Superior Ave. from East 18th Street to East 26th Street.
 - ii. The SEEDS program, which teaches men from 2100 Lakeside landscaping skills, would provide the labor for the project. Not using a contractor would significantly reduce the cost of the project. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries (LMM) and Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation (DCIC) both have program managers affiliated with the SEEDS program.
 - iii. The quote includes two years of maintenance. It would be a commitment of \$90,000 now and then would eventually go down to about \$7,000 per year to maintain. The plants only need to be watered for the first year since they are native plants.
- b. Property owners currently have a responsibility for maintenance.
 - i. Antonin Robert notes that maintenance is very important.
 - ii. The landscaping proposal would essentially be providing what GBX Group and CrossCountry Mortgage have now to the rest of the street.
 - 1. Karen Perkowski asks about including GBX Group and CrossCountry Mortgage in the SAIC maintenance agreement so that everything is fair.
 - 2. Alex Ragon asks about having property owners opt in to landscaping services.
 - iii. There is a question about whether the Superior Midway landscaping will be complementary.
 - iv. The board plans to shore up the landscaping proposal, get pictures out to other board members, and vote on it at the next board meeting.

VI. 2024 Placemaking Priorities

Edna T. Akrish

- a. Murals
 - i. Mike English and Svetlana Schreiber both want murals.
 - 1. Clark Broida was interested, but his is on hold for the moment.
 - ii. Granny Anne's, the building where Svetlana Schreiber wants a mural, needs lots of masonry work.
 - 1. The estimate was about \$30,000 for the masonry work and about \$17,000 for the mural and artwork.

- iii. Edna T. Akrish wonders about the review process for artwork.
 - b. Banner Program
 - i. The banners are up, but some were hung wrong.
 - ii. Some existing hardware was used.
 - iii. There is an opportunity to expand to other streets, if desired.
 - c. ArtStop Expansion
 - i. There are six bus stops on Superior Ave. in the special improvement district. One bus stop is already completed as an ArtStop.
 - ii. Each additional stop would cost about \$10,000 to make into an ArtStop.
 - iii. The ArtStop looks cool, but putting the art in is difficult. Rocks were also thrown through the existing ArtStop.
 - d. Trash Cans
 - i. The SAIC could collaborate with Stephanie Fralick at Tower Press to get artist submissions.
 - ii. Dan LaGuardia can reach out to Shred & Co. to talk about potential fabrication.
 - e. Master Plan
 - i. The SAIC could release an RFQ for just the Superior Arts District.
 - 1. There is a desire for elements like traffic patterns and logistics that go beyond just having pretty pictures.
 - ii. Field Operations is currently doing the master plan for the lakefront.
 - iii. Antonin Robert notes that just because the SAIC has money, it does not need to spend it all right now. He likes the idea of trash cans, thinks that murals would be a good start, and feels that the master plan has a lot of potential to help influence the city.
 - f. Outreach
 - i. NEOCH's estimated outreach worker costs are provided.
 - 1. Some of these costs were driven by a lack of attention from the city and county on encampments of individuals experiencing homelessness, which has improved slightly as of late.

VII. Encampment Update

Karen Perkowski

- a. Mark Lammon has been having weekly meetings with Emily Collins, the mayor's liaison on homeless services. She wants to pursue a similar model to Houston, Texas. Dr. Margolius is no longer directly involved.
- b. Current policy allows clearing encampments if there is no activity in them for 14 days.
- c. Dan LaGuardia believes that NEOCH can help the SAIC. He would like to give them \$20,000 to help with housing if they agree not to hand out tents for a year. Antonin Robert does not think that they will take that deal. Alex Ragon notes that NEOCH has plenty of money in their bank account right now to help with housing.
- d. Dan LaGuardia feels that outreach through Downtown Cleveland, Inc. is a waste of time.
- e. Mark Lammon would be happy to partner with FrontLine Service if they restart their outreach program.

VIII. New Business

Karen Perkowski

- a. There is no new business to discuss.

IX. Adjourn

Karen Perkowski

a. Antonin Robert motions to adjourn the meeting. Dan LaGuardia seconds the motion.

The motion to adjourn the meeting passes.

Board Packet Includes:

- December 6, 2023, SAIC Annual Meeting Minutes
- December 12, 2023, SAIC Special Board Meeting Minutes
- SAIC Financial Statements
- SAIC Financial Overview
- Proposed Superior Avenue Landscaping Budget
- Proposed NEOCH Outreach Worker Budget
- December 2023 Clean & Safe Report