



**DRAFT**  
**BUDGET MEETING \_NO.2**  
**DATE: May 21, 2025**

**Attendance:**

**Directors Present:** Caya Aufiero, Michael Powers, Dainielle Fox, Ann Smart (via Teams Meet)

**Directors Excused:** Mel Brockley, Fadumo Hassan

**Directors Absent:** Dwayne Nelson

**Guests:**

**Call to Order:**

Caya Aufiero called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm and announced a quorum was present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dainielle Fox

1. Dainielle shared the Work In Progress Budget from MARCH 19 Budget Meeting No.1 in PDF.

**New Business:**

1. **DTCID Safety Program:** John Chen, volunteer, from the Neighborhood Innovation Center
  - a. John presented an update on the Connected Dutchtown safety initiative, including the use of AI-enabled cameras, camera registry and license plate readers.
    - i. The board discussed the need for continued funding, improved coordination, and marketing to raise awareness.
  - b. He asked the Board for continued funding of the Citizen Safety Related Projects for \$5,000
    - i. One pilot program is the Smart Badges to test with Footprint shop owners for faster communication in emergency situations. They can be configured for either group response, to a Co-Ordinator, or 911.
  - c. John also talked about introducing the Illegal Dumping Project – like Flint, Michigan.
    - i. Expanding/Utilizing the Curated Camera Network to monitor illegal trash dumping
  - d. The BUDGET COMMITTEE discussed the pros and cons of an Emergency Response Fund for \$5,000, citing last winter's Snow Removal as an example, (but that was only as an extreme case, not the norm.) Pro: have some discretionary money set aside to handle occasional emergent needs. Con: setting a precedent for trying to replace city services in a way of which the CID is not capable.
    - A rule of thumb for any funds is that the money needs to be disbursed as widely as possible across the CID not just 1 or 2 businesses.
    - The uses would be addressed on an individual basis
    - Dainielle moved to allocate \$5,000 for the Emergency Response Fund for all occasions.
    - Michael seconded.



- The BUDGET COMMITTEE passed the motion unanimously.

**Old Business:**

1. 5 Grants Tabled from last Budget Meeting on MARCH 19. LaTasha from DTMS submitted more details on each of the tabled grants VIA an email on April 11<sup>th</sup>

- a. Public Arts Project – DTMS requested \$15,000

1. Michael moved that the Board decline the grant as the explanation was not specific enough and more information was needed
2. Ann seconded.
3. The BUDGET COMMITTEE declined the \$15,000 public arts grant.

Applicants are encouraged to re-submit detailed proposals for each individual project, with a cohesive District Wide theme approved by the DTCID Board. A public meeting should be scheduled for more specifics.

- b. Virginia Ave Pocket Park Beautification - \$20,500

1. Ann & Caya: What were the issues that were from the prior year DTMS encountered with contracts, and how were they resolved, etc.?
2. Michael: why can't the city take it over as a public park and maintain it, if Pocket Parks is phasing out care of it?
3. Caya: Why has DTMS unilaterally changed the previously agreed upon signage design?
4. Michael moved to **CONDITIONALLY** approve the continued support of the park project, PENDING MORE INFORMATION ON SIGNAGE, MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SEATING PLANS.
5. Dainielle seconded
6. The BUDGET COMMITTEE unanimously approved conditional continued support for the park project, pending more information on signage, maintenance responsibilities, and seating plans.

- c. Dutchtown Dia del los Muertos Gala - \$12,000

1. The CID doesn't support activities outside of the District, or pay for fundraising activities of other non profits
2. Michael moved to deny the grant
3. Dainielle seconded
4. The BUDGET COMMITTEE unanimously declined it.



- d. People's Joy Parade - \$10,000
  - 1. The BUDGET COMMITTEE had discussion of concerns: with a parade in the streets , drivers running barricades, would not be feasible for parade on CID footprint, closing streets would block businesses from doing biz
  - 2. Discussion about possibly giving \$1,000 from the sponsorship fund and having them locate other funding elsewhere, provide a plan that would address those concerns
  - 3. Ann moved to deny the request, but to inform them to find different funding and the CID would give up to \$1,000 as a sponsorship and
  - 4. to increase the sponsorship fund by an additional \$1,000,
  - 5. provide a plan that would address those concerns
  - 6. Dainielle seconded
  - 7. The BUDGET COMMITTEE unanimously passed it.
- e. Free Expressive Arts Therapy Programming for Youth - \$2,500
  - 1. The Board consulted with its legal counsel, who advised that the request clearly falls outside the scope of the DTCID's mission areas, noting that approving such funding could also set a precedent for providing financial support to for-profit businesses. There is a potential that the state statute might have a clause that would marginally allow for such a use, but it was up the Board to make that decision
  - 2. Ann moved to decline funds
  - 3. Michael seconded
  - 4. The Board denied the request.
  - 5. Ann, Michael, Caya voted for denial
  - 6. Dainielle abstained for an unclear reason (conflict of interest?)
- 2. The official meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm as we no longer had a quorum, since Dainielle had another engagement to attend.
- 3. Because of our short remaining timeline, the committee decided to continue review, and for the remaining 3 Budget Committee members to make decisions that would be recommended to Dainielle for approval this weekend. Then a final Full Board vote, as usual, at the May Board meeting. Budget and message need to be sent to BOA and State Auditor by May 31.
- 4. Budget Committee recommendations: See attached spreadsheet with notes



5. Caya conveyed advice from our Board Attorney on a couple other matters:
  - a. Bill recommended that we hold on off on any vote for new Director seat til we find a Business Member from South Grand. Continue to solicit interest.
  - b. Ask for a meeting in June with corresponding DTMS & DTCID Presidents/V Presidents to understand and resolve issues.
  - c. Establish Board protocols for handling public comments and/or disruptive behavior

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm, Next meeting is **May 27, 2025** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month) The meeting will be open to the public at the Neighborhood Innovation Center (NIC STL) 3207 Meramec, 63118 & online at <https://dutchtownstl.org/cidmeeting>

**DUTCHTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**3207 Meramec Street, St. Louis, MO 63118** <https://dutchtownstl.org/cid>

Minutes submitted by Terry Coleman