



MEETING OF THE WESTLAND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City of Westland
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2023

Members Present: Kelly, Scott, Cabildo, Freese, Murray, Rea

Members Excused: Saab, Londeau

Also Present: Aubrey Merhib, Director of Economic Development

Kayla Cobetto, Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator

Brendan Schroder, Economic Development Administration

James Godbout, Council Member

DeLano Hornbuckle, Council Member

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Murray and supported by Cabildo to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on March 23, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Scott and supported by to Cabildo approve the payments of the vouchers in the amount of \$60,861.04

CoStar Realty	\$528.02
CoStar Realty	\$528.02
First National Bank Omaha	\$67.50
First National Bank Omaha	\$162.50
Westland Chamber of Commerce	\$40,000.00
Wayne Ford Civic League	\$15,750.00
Russell Electric	\$550.00
Russel Electric	\$3,275.00

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rea and supported by Murray to approve the proposal from Sole Underground to install a new drainage system at the site of the Mission to Mars playground at Tattan Park in the amount of not to exceed \$22,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Scott and supported by Cabildo to approve the Façade Grant Application from the Westland Historic Village in the amount of not to exceed \$25,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Training Discussion: None

Director Comments: Merhib informed the board of the Optimize Main Street program that allows the City to submit two businesses for a chance to gain technical assistance and \$2,500 in a grant to make technological changes. She asked the board to pass along any businesses that they would recommend for the program. She also informed the Board of the City's upcoming Master Plan update and the potential for a DDA member to serve on the steering committee. She also let the board know about an upcoming meeting with the owner of a blighted property within the district and the discussion of potentially using a blight elimination program offered by the state to remediate blight on the property.

Cobetto informed the board of an increase in activity regarding new businesses entering the city. She also told the board about continued efforts to build the retention program, and using GiS programs to gain better information about businesses and be better equipped to assist them.

Citizen Comments: Hornbuckle asked a clarifying question about the Optimize Main Street Program and businesses that qualify.

Board Member Comments: Cabildo asked a question about the commercial Re-Occupation process and gave a recommendation for potential improvements to the process.

A motion was made by Scott and supported by Murray to adjourn at 8:32 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously