

ANIZDA Board
MEETING MINUTES
April 03, 2024
America on Wheels Museum
2nd Floor Meeting Room
5 North Front Street, Allentown, PA

Attendance:

Board Members: Seymour Traub, Esquire (Chairperson) and Tiffany Polek attended in person. Dr. Ann Bieber, Nelson Diaz, and Pedro Torres attended via Zoom video conference. Absent were Eileen Aguilera, Stephen Breininger and John Stanley, Esquire.

Board Staff: Steve Bamford (Executive Director), Selma Ritter (Manager, Finance and Administration) and Jerome B. Frank, Esquire (Solicitor).

Presenter: Vicky Kistler, Director, Department of Community and Economic Development, City of Allentown.

Members of the public and media were present.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson S. Traub, Esquire, at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was met.
2. **Approval of February 07, 2024 Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the February 07, 2024 meeting minutes, as written, was made by P. Torres and seconded by A. Bieber. The public was given the opportunity to comment. No comment(s) or change request(s) were received. The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.
3. **Public Comment on all Matters to be Acted Upon.** Comments were deferred until matters were to be acted upon.
4. **Old Business** - None.
5. **New Business.**
 - a. **Downtown Public Sidewalk Improvements, N. 8th and W. Linden Streets – Resolution R2024-314.** S. Bamford stated the ANIZDA Public Improvement Committee (PIC) held a public meeting on March 20, 2024, to review the project before the Authority this evening. At that PIC meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the project proceed to the ANIZDA Board for consideration of funding in an amount not to exceed \$830,000.

The project Application designated the City of Allentown (the “City”) as the public property owner and City Center Investment Corporation (“CCIC”) as the project sponsor.

S. Bamford then introduced Vicky Kistler, Director, Department of Community and Economic Development, who was representing the City, and in attendance this evening to present the project to the Board.

V. Kistler proceeded to present the N. 8th and W. Linden Streets Streetscape project, utilizing the PowerPoint presentation, dated March 20, 2024. She began by describing the current degraded streetscapes, which included uneven and cracked sidewalks, is not aesthetically pleasing, and a safety concern. She then discussed the new proposed streetscape improvements, which would include new landscaping, street trees, lighting, new curbing and sidewalks, and a trash and recycling receptacle. The project will conform with the other streetscapes in the area. The total cost for this project is estimated not to exceed \$830,000. Construction will commence in April 2024, with completion in June 2025.

A motion to approve Resolution R2024-314 was made by N. Diaz and seconded by T. Polek. The public was given the opportunity to comment. Lin Erickson, Executive Director and CEO of the DaVinci Science Center (“DaVinci”) provided a brief update on DaVinci construction and expressed her support for the improvements project. No additional public comment was received. Resolution R2024-314 was approved by a vote of 5-0.

6. Executive Director’s Report.

a. S. Bamford reported since the last Board meeting, the PA Department of Revenue issued letters certifying \$98,189,704.66 of state tax remittances and \$4,782,864.88 of local tax remittances attributable to the Neighborhood Improvement Zone for program year 2023. We are currently in the process of allocating those NIZ revenues to developer dedicated indebtedness and debt service on the arena bonds.

b. S. Bamford provided updates on construction projects including:

- i. The DaVinci Science Center is scheduled to open on May 22, 2024, with Dinos Alive. There will be a VIP Tour and ribbon cutting ceremony at DaVinci on May 21, 2024.
- ii. Archer Music Hall (the “Archer”) and the Moxy boutique hotel (the “Moxy”) are under construction in the 900 block of Hamilton Street. The two venues within the Archer have a combined total capacity of 2,100 and the Moxy will have 133 guest rooms.
- iii. The 900, 1000 and 1100 blocks Hamilton Street Streetscapes construction projects continue.

- iv. The 800 block of Hamilton Street Streetscapes construction project continues.
- v. Demolition and site work is underway for construction of the Neuweiler Lofts project at the former brewery site.

7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Next scheduled ANIZDA Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 01, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pedro Torres, Jr., Secretary

