

MINUTES
Jamestown Local Development Corporation
August 16, 2023 Rescheduled from July 19, 2023

A meeting of the Jamestown Local Development Corporation was held on Thursday, August 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Tony Dolce
Vicki McGraw
Eddie Sundquist

Others Present:

Crystal Surdyk, Director of Development
Tim Odell, Grant Manager
Elliot Raimondo, Corporation Counsel
Journey Gunderson, Executive Director, National Comedy Center
Rochelle Mole, CFO, National Comedy Center
John Kinder, Program Director, Jamestown Center City Development
Joe Paterniti, Italian American Charity Golf
Kristin McMahon, President, Robert H. Jackson Center
Tina Downey, Director of Development, Robert H. Jackson Center
Joe Paterniti, Italian American Charity Golf Association
David Munella, Italian American Charity Golf Association
Peter Morgonte, Italian American Charity Golf Association
Lennea Carlson-Haskin, Director of Jamestown Public Market
Steven Cobb, Executive Director of Mental Health Association

Mayor Sundquist called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

The first item on the agenda was presentations from ARPA Non-Profit Assistance Grant Program applicants. Crystal Surdyk clarified that these agencies were asked to address the JLDC Board for a second time because they have each requested \$200,000 or more in ARPA funding. They were asked to present on the return on investment that the City of Jamestown can expect from the projects for which they are requesting funding.

To first presentation on ARPA funding requests was delivered by Kristin McMahon, President of Robert H. Jackson Center. The total amount of ARPA funding requested by Robert H. Jackson is \$350,000.

Ms. McMahon shared that her request for ARPA funding will go far in making the Robert H. Jackson Center a destination for students of justice and rule of law. Improvements in technology featured at the Center will better engage current future generations.

Building capacity in staffing by creating two positions, one Director of Programs and Education and one Marketing and Communication Director, will increase school and student participation by providing in-service training days for teachers, guest speakers in the likes of Supreme Court Justices, International figures and world-renowned authors and journalist.

Ms. McMahon also stated that ARPA funding from the City will be utilized as a matching grant when applying for New York State grants.

Next was a presentation from John Kinder, Program Director, Jamestown Center City Development. The total amount of ARPA grant funding requested by the Jamestown Center City Development for the creation of The Kid Zone is \$500,000. Mr. Kinder stated that the return on investment that the City of Jamestown can expect is a three-tier return; children and families, subsidized admission costs, and economic impact.

Mr. Kinder stated that by investing in youth recreation and educational programming, and partnering with other community agencies that serve Jamestown's youth, The Kid Zone will be a safe space for our youth to engage in Jamestown. Subsidized admission opportunities garnered by public and private funding will enable a greater number of youth to participate in programming at The Kid Zone. Programming at The Kid Zone is BOCES aid-able, which means that smaller school districts can access funding for subsidized admission for their students.

Mr. Kinder referenced the Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 Report stating that cities that have invested in children's museums see a return of five dollars in tax revenue for every one-dollar of funding invested by all levels of government. He continued to reference the report stating that on average each attendee will spend \$31.47 per person outside of museum admission. Mr. Kinder also referenced the AE-COM report that stated The Kid Zone will see an average of 45,000 visitors annually, in addition of the 200,00 visitors to the Northwest Arena.

Next on the agenda was Journey Gunderson, Executive Director of the National Comedy Center (NCC). Ms. Gunderson began by stating the return on investment that the City of Jamestown can expect with awarding the NCC \$200,000 in ARPA funding. She described how the ARPA funding awarded to the NCC will put money back in the coffers of local businesses in the form of wages and revenue.

Ms. Gunderson, shared testimonies of impact on businesses from Liscandro's and Crown Street Roasting. She also remarked that from visitor data collected at the NCC that of the eighty-eight percent of out of area visitors, forty-percent spent at least one night in Jamestown, and 59% spent two. She also stated that eighty-five percent of visitors expressed that they are very likely to return. Seventy-seven percent of the out of area guests have 2.6 meals in local restaurants. She attributed the growth and recovery of the NCC to their robust marketing campaigns in Cleveland and Pittsburgh and co-branding with the Harbor Hotel in these two areas.

Due to lack of quorum, not action was taken by the Board at this time.

Next on the agenda was the Fund for Downtown Programming. Joe Paterniti, David Menulla and Peter Morgonte from the Italian American Charity Golf Association (IACGA) presented on their FDP grant request of \$30,000 for the event titled Femmes of Rock. First, Mr. Paterniti shared that the IACGA raises money for local patients in need of cancer care.

The Femmes of Rock is a world-wide known musical group of all female violinists. The event will be held at the Reg Lenna, with a show date of October 28. The IACGA anticipates a sold-out show.

Next, Lennea Haskin, Director of Jamestown Public Market presented on the Market's FDP application requesting \$11,020.00 in funding. The event titled FoodTown: Jamestown, is a three-day educational event that features guest speakers, panel discussions, and workshops. The first and second events will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, with the last one, the panel discussion, will be held at the Beer Snob.

During the event series, downtown restaurants are encouraged to brand themselves as a FoodTown restaurant, as participants will be encouraged to patron downtown restaurants.

The final presentation for the Fund for Downtown Programming was from Steven Cobb, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association (MHA). The MHA is requesting \$7,300 to bring a theatrical performance titled, You Better Call Your Mother, to be held at the Jackson Center Cappa Theater, on September 15 and 16.

The performance, a one-man show created and starring Mitchell Anderson, a Hollywood actor and Jamestown native, is an evening of songs and monologues exploring the life of Mr. Anderson. Tickets will be sold for two shows with seating capacity at a maximum of four hundred attendees at each show. Two different price points are at \$30 including fees, or VIP Admission for \$100 including fees. VIP will enjoy priority seating and a meet and greet with Mr. Anderson after the show. There is a possibility of a third show - a matinée on Saturday September 16. Our fundraising goal for the project is \$10,000. Proceeds from these shows will go to support the work and efforts of Jamestown Pride.

Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken by the board at this time.

Approval of the August 3rd JLDC Board of Directors meeting minutes, and approval of the financial reports for July, will be considered at the next regularly scheduled JLDC Board meeting.

No new business was brought to the table.

No executive session was needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Wright Economic Development Coordinator

