

**CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2020**

Attendees:

CCC Members: Chairman John Harrity, Commissioner Jim Knowlton, Lowell Alexander
Commissioner John Brissette, Commissioner Patrick Lowe, Commissioner (Absent)

City: John Odell, Candee Raphaelson

SMG: Sandy Dunn,

Arcadis: Stephen Brown

Minutes Prepared by: Candee Raphaelson, City

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Harrity brought the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. John Odell took the roll call
Chairman Harrity asked that Sandy Dunn give a quick update about the UMass DCU Covid19
field hospital set up in the DCU convention center. Sandy informed the Commissioners that as of
yesterday (April 22, 2020) the field hospital was divided into two sections with 25 patients in the
hospital side and 59 Covid19 virus positive in the homeless shelter side. DCU staffing in the
building is limited to four. Huge kudos given to UMass and the Emergency Response Team.

2. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes

Chairman Harrity asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of April 2, 2020. Commissioner
Alexander made motion, all in favor, 4-0.

3. Project Status Update

John Odell discussed funding for Phase II and the other projects impacted by the Covid19 crisis.
Tax monies from restaurants and hotels, etc. that fund the DCU District have been and are
expected to continue to be much lower than anticipated. As a result, there will be a pause in
moving forward on larger projects until an improved revenue stream is available. The Architect,
Populous has been asked to stop moving forward on the final project scope designs. Arcadis, the
city's Owner's Project Management Co., (OPM) has been asked to button up ongoing projects.

Stephen Brown, from Arcadis, stated that they expect Phase II to pause until at least January, but
feels with a minor investment the team can have everything organized so that if it ramps up prior
to that, they will be ready. In addition, he recommended that the application to hire a General
Contractor through the Chapter 149a, Construction Management at Risk process, should be
prepared and sent to the MA Inspector General's office. He also suggested that a landscaping
improvement project that would also incorporate the base requirements for the planned Bob
Cousy statue could be done for approximately \$250,000 in the fall. Chairman Harrity then
questioned the timing for the statue and asked if fall or winter and John Odell said due to the
Covid19 situation it would most likely be late winter.

Chairman Harrity asked if a vote on the CM at Risk process was needed and John Odell replied in the affirmative. A motion to vote to approve the City to move forward with the Chapter 149a, CM at Risk application was made by Commissioner Brissette and approved on a roll call vote – 4-0.

Chairman Harrity then asked about the Capital Project update on the phones. John Odell explained Technical Services was overseeing the wireless provider and the design phase was just completed. He expected finals specs to be available shortly with the bid to follow shortly after that and hopefully a contract within six weeks from the bid date. John also gave an update on the vault. The design is underway but expects changes to the schedule. He will discuss with Sandy Dunn, DCU General Manager, if a late summer/early fall window may be available.

4. SMG Reporting

Sandy Dunn reiterated that all activities in the facility have come to a halt. Currently there have been 42 cancellations. There has also been a number of postponements which could become cancellations based on the ongoing impacts of the Covid19 crisis. Revenue has dried up and they are working to reduce costs across the board. 96 percent of the employees are laid off or furloughed in some degree. However, they are taking daily phone calls and are making preparations to keep patrons safe for when they will be able to re-open.

The Pirates are planning a roll out in mid-June if possible and the Railers are looking at October 24th as their start date. February was a great month and the updated Wi-Fi was well tested. Discover Central Massachusetts, which helps market the DCU Center, accepted the resignation of Stephanie Ramey. She will be leaving on May 1st and moving on to work as the President of the Railers on May 10th.

There is no sales report this month. Chairman Harrity inquired about graduations and Sandy reported that it changed daily with call about virtual, later dates, next year combining two years etc. Nothing is final for now.

John Odell suggested May 28th at 3 p.m. for the next virtual meeting.

Chairman Harrity asked for Motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Alexander motion to adjourn. All in favor, 4-0