



FORT WORTH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PID) # 1  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
9:00 A.M.  
Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.  
777 Taylor Street, Suite 100  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

A G E N D A

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|-------|---|------------------------------|
| I.    | Call to Order   | Laura Bird                   |
| II.   | Consideration of Minutes of April 26, 2023                      | Laura Bird                   |
| III.  | Financial Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023                 | Brandi Ervin                 |
| IV.   | Consideration of the Draft Budget<br>Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 | Matt Beard                   |
| V.    | PID #1 Report   |                              |
|       | a. Marketing  | Becky Fetty/<br>KayLee Pratt |
|       | b. Transportation & Planning                                    | Melissa Konur                |
|       | c. Research Report  | Shane Smith                  |
| VI.   | Requests for Future Agenda Items                                | Laura Bird                   |
| VII.  | Presentations by the Public                                     |                              |
| VIII. | Adjourn   | Laura Bird                   |



**Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.  
Fort Worth Public Improvement District #1  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
MINUTES**

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The Advisory Board for the Fort Worth Public Improvement District #1 met on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 in the Conference Room at Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., located at 777 Taylor Street, Suite 100, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

**Advisory Board Members in Attendance:** Larry Auth, Gavin Behr, Laura Bird, Johnny Campbell, Gary Cumbie, Carlos De La Torre, Jennifer Eslinger (representing Nicole Nadvornik), Marie Holliday, Ashlee Johnson, Whit Kelly, Ed Kraus, Walter Littlejohn, Michelle Lynn, Renee Massey, Mark Michalski, Don Perfect, and Jed Wagenknecht.

**Board Members unable to attend:** Amber Finley, Drew Hayden, Mark Michalski, Don Perfect, Carissa Taylor and Courtney Towson.

**DFWI Staff present:** Matt Beard, Brandi Ervin, Becky Fetty, KayLee Pratt, Shane Smith, and Andy Taft.

**Guest:** Sargent Joel Starry and Lieutenant Roger Stewart with the Fort Worth Police Department HOPE Unit.

**City Staff:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER** – With a quorum being present, Chair Auth called the PID #1 Advisory Committee meeting to order.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 MIUNTES** – Mr. Auth called the Advisory Committee’s attention to the January 11, 2023 minutes. The minutes were emailed prior to today’s meeting.

**UPON A MOTION BY Carlos De La Torre and duly seconded by Gary Cumbie, the PID #1 Advisory Committee unanimously approved the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes.**

**HOPE UNIT UPDATE** – Sgt. Joel Starry, with the FWPD HOPE unit, talked about the homelessness issue downtown. Last year there was a 30% increase in the homeless population county-wide. Starry’s unit handles the homeless camp complaints around the city. In 2021, they responded to 584 complaints. Last year’s complaints increased to 1,612. To date they have received 871 complaints. Even with the increased workload, his unit has been taking care of cleaning up camp sites and getting in front of that population.

There is a shift in the homelessness population demographics. It is a younger generation. If you have a homeless person on your property and they refuse to leave, then they can be charged with criminal trespassing. The DA’s office prefers that the PD issue a citation. The HOPE unit has no control over what the courts will do. Mr. Taft asked if the distribution of **No Trespassing** signs to property owners is helpful. Sgt. Starry said the signs are wonderful and he encourages businesses to put them up. Starry said to call 911 for documentation purposes, then reach out to your NPO.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2nd QUARTER OF FY 2022-2023** – Brandi Ervin reported the following:

- PID 1 revenue is currently \$46,754. This is only 31% of the annual budget, however the Tarrant County Homeless Outreach grant was signed on March 20, 2023 and we should receive \$49K in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Operations are 47% of the annual budget 50% through the year.
- Other Expenses are almost at 12% due to the tree light repair being in that line item. (Those repairs were not done until April.)
- Transportation and Planning are at 62%. The payment for Molly the Trolley has been made as well as the \$10K Bike Share sponsorship.
- Marketing is at 41%.
- Research is at 47%.
- Administration is at 48%.
- Total Operating expenses are 47% of the annual budget.

Ms. Ervin informed the committee that we had to make a mid-year adjustment to reallocate \$9K from Landscaping in Operations to the Ambassador Program line item. This was needed in order to keep the services the same as the previous year. The mid-year adjustment was approved by City Council yesterday.

**UPON A MOTION BY Marie Holliday and duly seconded by Jed Wagenknecht, the PID #1 Advisory Committee unanimously approved the 2nd Quarter FY 2022-2023 financial report as presented.**

**PID #1 REPORT:** Matt Beard recapped that in September 2021, Sundance Square submitted a proposal for a voluntary landscape planting plan adjacent to their properties for the raised brick beds and several beds where tree grates were removed, and plantings were placed in those beds. The SSQ plan was proposed to require less intrusive digging, improve the ecosystem, and create a “diverse and inclusive downtown.”

The PID Advisory Committee reviewed the landscaping plan on November 10, 2021, and staff, at the guidance of the PID Committee, has been doing an assessment on the plants’ performance, aesthetics and maintenance needs over the past 18 months to evaluate whether this was a planting program we might want to follow. Mr. Beard showed before and after images of the planter beds and many of the plants remaining dormant or dead in some cases. His report included the following:

- The pot-to-pot planting increased the beds’ plant density and is troublesome for both the plants and the trees.
- The SSQ wax leaf ligustrums are harmful to the trees and should be removed.
- The number of replantings and the original deep excavation because of the plant sizes can cause the trees distress.
- Leaves and trash accumulate in the shrubs.
- Many of the plants have died or are dead or look leggy and unkept.
- Over the past 16 months many plants have required replacement.

Beard stated that staff does not recommend adopting Sundance’s planting model. The floor was open for discussion:

- The committee agreed that the PID’s current planting program, with 3 seasonal plantings during the year (spring, summer, and fall) is more aesthetically pleasing.
- After getting through the important seasons, the PID refreshes the beds.

- Dirt and dead plants in the planter beds is not a good look. Even topsoil would be preferable over plant “skeletons.”
- Two years of observation on the performance of the plantings is a great basis to make a decision.
- The committee would like to see downtown go back to the unified model with plants that are successful.
- Shrub success in ornamental beds will be challenging because of the size of mature trees and planter size.
- It is not cheaper to put expensive material in the beds and have to replant them.
- Pansies and begonias cost pennies by comparison and have a fresh and well kept look.
- Consistency is part of the maintenance program. Three plantings keep things looking fresh along our downtown streets.

The next PID 1 budget will have the traditional planting scheme whether it involves Sundance Square or not. The committee agreed. There were no objections.

Also discussed was the removal of the tree grates and tree wells.

The grates are designed to be part of the sidewalk, add more space around the trees, provide walkability and the grates are ADA compliant. The SSQ removal of the grates creates a tripping hazard. The PID does not have responsibility for the tree grates or the trees. Many of the grates were removed, without permission, to house the shrubbery that was planted later. Mr. Beard showed some images where the grates were removed and replaced with plantings. The floor was open for discussion.

- If the tree grates are put into the PID contract, then staff would recommend that the shrubs be removed and the grates put back.
- The trees, tree wells, and tree grates are the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. The property owners need to be made aware that it is their responsibility, and the city is working on that.
- Ed Krauss stated that the past two winters have been rough and some of the plantings did not survive. Mr. Beard said that Horticulturist Dr. Robert Moon’s assessment is that the wax leaf ligustrum has a woody root system that is harmful to the trees’ health. Also, there is a new fungal development at the base of some of the trees.
- Mr. Taft added that the original concept of the “one time” plantings was to not disrupt the tree roots. A much larger pot violates that at the beginning, but the replanting further aggravates the problem. There has been more digging and deeper holes.

**Staff’s recommendation is that the tree grates should be put back in or identify plantings that would be more successful and an image that the city wants to project.** The PID Advisory Committee was in agreement for the grates to be replaced. There were no objections.

**TRANSPORTATION** – Information pertaining to the city’s street resurfacing plan was included in today’s handouts. Please be aware of the schedule if your property is in the planned area. It should take about 2 days to strip the old pavement and do an overlay. This will be highly disruptive for a short period of time.

**OTHER MATTERS** – There were no other matters for discussion.

**REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – There were no requests for future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING** – Due to time, the Marketing and Research reports will be given at the next PID 1 meeting. With no further business to come before the PID #1 Advisory Committee, Chair Auth adjourned the PID #1 Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Larry Auth, PID #1 Chairman