

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Denison called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

II. Items for Discussion

A. MEDC & Michigan Mainstreet

Murphy: Years ago Clark Equipment provided 3,500 jobs which went away abruptly and quite recently. We developed the Vision for Buchanan. Three things emerged:

- 1) Do more of what's working downtown, pursue sustainable uses such as restaurants and retail
- 2) Bring more young people to put roots in Buchanan and get investors
- 3) Instill quality of life in the northside neighborhood and encourage first-time home buyers

Vigansky: Comments that LiveBuchanan does not have open meetings, it's not downtown business owners, it's not funded by the DDA because we destroyed the DDA, and it doesn't fit their criteria.

Denison: Back in 2019 we dissolved our DDA because our DDA's mission had run out and they became inefficient and ineffective. We had a long process of choosing the folks on the board of LiveBuchanan.

MMS: This is a nation-wide program and for the nation a majority do not have DDA's, they are non-profits. The majority of those nonprofits are funded by the cities they're located in.

MMS Questions:

- We want you to go through our list of services and be very clear in the application which ones would best help you meet your mission. Is it branding, market analysis, setting up a strategy, etc.?
- Some maps need to be updated, averages per sq foot (rent, commercial, residential, etc.)
- Budget – Discussion about the funding for the LiveBuchanan executive director position and the positions associated costs such as supplies, professional development, travel, etc.
- Revenue – Discussion about LiveBuchanan earnings, the city's plan to help LiveBuchanan become sustainable, and revenue sources such as city contributions, sponsorships, donations, grants, etc.
- Organizational Structure – Currently this position would be a city staff person. Discussion about an agreement between the city and LiveBuchanan to identify mutual priorities, responsibilities, reporting structure, and budget. An agreement will solidify roles and show it can be sustainable for the 5 years of Select Level, then during that we'll find a structure to bring you to the Master Level. The vision is for the 501C-3 nonprofit to be its own entity with staff, a board, etc.

Approval Timeline: Our team reviewed the application together, thought of questions, and we came here to do our on-site visit. Then we have another internal meeting next week, you have a couple weeks to update and turn the application around, and finally we decide around the end of May.

III. Adjourns

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Mayor Sean Denison