

Livingston URA 2022 Annual Report

With the URA funds remaining after capital outlay (CIP) and Bond debt service, the URA focused on promoting and awarding grants and smaller projects benefiting the community, specifically in the URA District. In the monthly meetings we had and with the funds from the 2022/2023 budget, we moved forward with the following:

Meetings & Members:

We met monthly on third Wednesdays in the Community Room at the City/County Complex. Members include Allison Vicenzi (Chair), Rick VanAken (Vice Chair), Christina Nelson (Secretary), Kevin Stewart, Lisa Garcia, and Quentin Schwarz (City Commissioner). Several changes in Board seats occurred in this calendar year. We approved a new committee member (Lisa Garcia), and hired a new Secretary (Christina Nelson). Our longtime chairperson Bob Ebinger retired and we appointed a new Chair (Allison Vicenzi). We have one vacant Board seat remaining after Kyra Ames stepped down in May. We have promoted the vacancy online and in the Enterprise, as well as word-of-mouth, with no applicants yet.

Grant Awards & Successes:

We completed the Artistic Utility Box wrap program in collaboration with the BID, debuting the 6 new boxes in October. In addition to funding the 4 boxes in the URA District, the local artists who created artwork for these boxes were each paid a stipend for their work (total \$3,350). As applications were limited for our Façade Grant going into this fiscal year, we pre-approved a grant of \$30,000 to support the new Downtown Plan, spearheaded by PCEC. That project is currently on hold until they hire an agency to run the program.

To increase awareness and applications, we streamlined our grant application process, removing the Energy Efficiency grant program to focus on the Façade Grant Program. Word has spread and we had six (6) applicants and successfully funded three (3) grants: Wheatgrass Bookstore windows (\$1,000), Park Place painting (\$5,174), and 116 East Callender asbestos removal and painting (\$96,500), totalling \$102,674. The others did not meet our requirements or remain in the queue until their completion in 2023.

Other work,

The City did approve paying for half of the costs to put up the 2022 summer flower baskets, although we declined to continue paying for this project in the future. URA payment for the flower boxes was supposed to be temporary until the BID could take over the project. The BID does not yet have the funding to replace our support.

Anticipated Work for 2023

2023 looks like an excellent year for bringing several high-profile Façade Grant projects to completion, specifically the Thomson Building and 226 South Main St., and expanding our programs/funding into other needed areas (i.e. housing, in-filled development, public infrastructure, conversions) as we continue to be an economic engine for our Community. We also look forward to working with the new City Manager (Grant Gager) and Planning Director (Jennifer Severson) to improve our process flow and work closely with the City, City Commission, and other Boards to achieve Growth Policy goals and support businesses and residents in our district.