



Kansas City Diversity Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Attendees:

Jesse Polt – President
Stuart Woody – Treasurer
Tyler Bell – Director
Michael Craig – Director

- 1) Call to Order & Opening Comments
 - a. Jesse brought the meeting to order at 6:04PM

- 2) Treasury Report
 - a. March 31, 2021 Financials
 - b. CBIZ Financial Review
 - i. Informed meeting attendees that the review is available on our website and they can view it under About>Finances>2019

- 3) Website & Social Media
 - a. Michael Craig and Tyler Bell gave an update on the Website Federation and enhancements to security
 - b. Michael Craig is in the process of reserving the required domains for I Heart KC Market Days
 - c. Tyler Bell gave an update on Social Media campaigns, including Transgender Day of Visibility and Celebrate Diversity Month

- 4) Continuation of Transparency
 - a. Restated our action items of Transparency including:
 - i. Quarterly Town Hall Meetings
 - ii. Timely updates to Meeting Minutes, Financials and other Organization Documentation
 - iii. Continuation of Digital Coalition Building with Social Media
 - iv. Working with Community Partners
 1. KCDC has donated \$2,000 to The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to help their efforts
 - v. Actively seek diverse representation and talents to volunteer with the organization

- 5) Community Questions
 - a. See answers following the main agenda

- 6) Closing Statements
 - a. Jesse Polt called the meeting to a close at 6:14PM



Community Questions

Q: Where are the minutes from meetings discussing the planning of a “Gay” Chicago style market days event here in KC to make money off the community?

A: They are posted in the meeting minutes section of our website. [View here.](#)

Q: How many people are required to sit on the board of a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status as required by the state of Missouri?

A: 3 Directors

Q: Why doesn't this organization have enough board members?

A: We do by statute, we are always seeking motivated community members.

Q: Why doesn't this organization have support from the community they have been making money off of for years?

A: We have the best interest of the community at our core, and we continue to work with our community partners.

Q: In January Jesse stated there was programming being developed. Where are the minutes for those meetings?

A: They are posted in the meeting minutes section of our website. We are evaluating economic and CDC recommendations prior to announcing our event tentatively for Labor Day Weekend. [View here.](#)

Q: What fundraisers, community outreach, or educational symposiums are being planned? Per your website on what KCDC does as a nonprofit. See Attached Photo.

A: KCDC is in the process of looking into various programming options including sensitivity trainings and other ways to highlight our community partners.

Q: Please detail the expenses related to the \$86,995.00 outside contract services paid in 2020, a year in which there were no sponsored events.

A: EventPros, Inc. \$85,000 - Pride Festival planning, implementation & management services.

B: Craig Williams \$1,995.00 - Graphic Design - Tickets/Rack Card/ T-Shirt/Facebook/Webpage

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Q: In the 8/7/20 Membership Letter it was stated “ We feel that we will be able to successfully negotiate cancelation of our contract with EventPros.”

- **Please provide an update on the effort to cancel the EventPros contract in 2020. Was the contract canceled? If not was the fee reduced?**
- **And further, if KCDC wanted to avoid ongoing tensions about the role of EventPros, why is KCDC actively working with the company again to plan a future event?**

A: The KCDC – Event Pros, Inc. contract was dated September 5, 2018 and executed November 19, 2018. The contract covered three (3) Pride Festivals – one each in 2019, 2020, & 2021. The contract was canceled for the 2021 year by a Termination Agreement executed on 08/28/2020. There was no monetary consideration paid by KCDC for the cancelation of the 2021 contract year. For 2019 and 2020 the fees were paid as specified by the contract without any reductions.

KCDC and Event Pros, Inc. have enjoyed a successful relationship over the past several years in the production of Kansas City’s annual Pride Festival. Event Pros, Inc.’s services, contacts, contract negotiation expertise, credit worthiness, and professional reputation within the greater Kansas City community have proven invaluable to the success of the Pride Festivals. Should KCDC elect to produce and host a public event in 2021, The Termination Agreement cancelling Event Pros, Inc. services for the 2021 Pride Festival provides a Right of First Refusal Option for Event Pros, Inc. should they wish to undertake the production of such festival or event that KCDC hosts in 2021. While KCDC is considering hosting an event over the 2021 Labor Day weekend, as of 4/12/2021 no contracts have been entered into for the potential event.

Q: The EventPros contract states: “If at any time KCPrideFest, in its sole determination, believes it will be unable to secure the donations necessary to pay the Base Fee for particular year’s Event, then KCPrideFest may terminate this Agreement, as it pertains to that year’s Event...”

- **Did the KCDC board make a determination in 2020 that the organization would be unable to secure donations to pay the base fee? If yes, why was the agreement not terminated? If no, how did the board justify not making this determination considering the impacts of COVID-19?**

A: The KCDC Board did not make a determination that the organization would be unable to secure donations and other revenue sources to pay the base fee. Prior to the event cancellation, the Board believed that donations would be sufficient to pay the fee based on what had been received and solidly committed. Upon learning of the abrupt event cancelation on July 8, 2020 many – but not all - of the donors requested a partial or full refund of their donations. While it is unfortunate on many accounts that the 2020 Pride Festival was unable to occur, the Board voted unanimously to honor the spirit of the contract and pay the full 2020 contract fee.

This decision was based on the actions that Event Pros, Inc. put forth beginning at the conclusion of the 2019 Pride Festival through August 2020. Considerable effort was directed towards working with several business and government agencies associated with the new downtown venue. Detailed logistical issues with many site visits were reviewed, configured and decided. Sponsorships and booth event participation were on track to exceed the successful 2019 event. The organization elected to introduce a higher caliber of entertainment by announcing Melissa Etheridge as the Saturday night headliner.

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The contract negotiations for this act required a significant amount of time and expertise. The postponement of the event from the original June date to October as well as the eventual cancelation of the event required additional interaction and correspondence with donors, entertainers, vendors, & venue personnel.

Additionally, for many years, Event Pros, Inc. has provided its office space for KCDC to hold Board & committee meetings, meet with vendors and sponsors, and provide a physical location for the organization to identify with. The Board recognizes that Event Pros, Inc. incurs expenses in maintaining an office and appreciates the availability and use of such space.

Q: Website management fees increased from \$344 in 2019 to \$5,144 in 2020, please explain the significant increase in services.

A: 2019 Website Management Fees of \$344.17 were comprised of GoDaddy Domain Registration Fees.

2020 Website Managements Fees of \$5,144.19 include payments for GoDaddy (\$1,140.99), Mail Chimp (\$191.20), Michael Craig (3/2/20) - paid to Michael Craig as a contractor prior to induction to the board for contracted web services (\$375.00) and Whova Mobile App (\$3,437.00) for event management application service. The Whova Mobile App service was not able to be utilized for the canceled 2020 Pride Festival; it remains available for use by KCDC for a future event.

Q: KCDC has operated without a Board Secretary since at least October 2020; what are the plans to fill this role? According to Missouri statue 355.431 secretary is a required office.

A: To fill the position of Secretary, President Jesse Polt, has appointed Tyler Bell as the secretary of KCDC, he has been maintaining various documents for KCDC since August 2020. The board unanimously agreed to this appointment, motioned 4/8/2021.

Q: KCDC has publicly stated that they will no longer sponsor and host the Kansas City PrideFest event. Will KCDC transfer the [KC PrideFest.org](https://www.kcpridefest.org) domain to Kansas City Pride Community alliance?

A: [KC PrideFest.org](https://www.kcpridefest.org) and all associated domains remain maintained by the KCDC as in all years prior. The individuals that “fraudulently and negligently” tried to conduct official business of the KCDC on April 9th, as it related to the Pride Festival for 2020 have been proven legally to be null and void.

The KCDC logos, including the heart faced logo and all content are intellectual property rights of the KCDC. Those items including all domain names are integrated in our designed products, marketing materials, and professional poster designs. Per agreements made between the KCDC and the KCPCA, the KCPCA will need to secure their own domains and marketing materials in the reorganization of Kansas City Pride Festival.