

**Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2009**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was held December 10, 2009 at 8:30 am at the DDA offices located at 936 Broad Street, Suite 107. Those members in attendance were Steven Kendrick, Paul King, Cameron Nixon, Mark Bowling, Joey Hadden, Legal Counsel Byrd Warlick, and Executive Director Margaret Woodard and outgoing board member Julian Roberts. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, CADI Project Manager Jessica Fuselier, Tim Rausch of the Augusta Chronicle, Barry White of the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau, CPA Sanford Loyd, Robert Cizek and Ted Russ of StreetSmart, Karyn Nixon of Augusta-Richmond County, Gary Powell of Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Davenport Bruker of Sanford, Bruker & Banks, Tom Robertson of Cranston Engineering, Commissioner Joe Bowles, Commissioner-Elect Matt Aitken, Dr. Michael Ash of MCG, Fred Russell of Augusta-Richmond County, Joel Wascher of A. Brown-Olmstead Associates, George Harrison of Boll Weevil, Carless Gay of Cloud Nine, Chris Thomas and Collin Hillison of News 12.

Mr. Kendrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Mr. Bowling presented the previous meeting minutes from November 12, 2009. With no additions or corrections, Mr. Nixon made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes with a second by Mr. King. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Nixon presented the DDA financials for November 2009.

Mr. Nixon explained to the board that the balance sheet now reflects the letter "R" next to restricted funds.

The following DDA operating amounts were reflected for January 2009 through November 2009: total income in the amount of \$191,479.37 versus the total income year to date budget in the amount of \$198,715.01. The difference is interest income that was anticipated to be higher but rates were lower than expected. Due to cash based accounting there is a loss in the amount of -\$156,903.54 which is due to the excess salary monies that were due for 2007 and 2008 which were paid in 2009.

Mr. Nixon commended the staff for doing a good job maintaining the budget.

The consolidated report included Christmas decorations and SPLOST. This shows a significant loss due to the 2007 and 2008 salary repayment.

Mr. Nixon made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as information. Mr. Bowling made a second to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Chairman's Report, Mr. Kendrick presented outgoing board member Mr. Roberts with an award for his outstanding board service from 2000-2009. Mr. Roberts made a short speech.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Woodard gave a short report as since November the office has been working on Christmas Light-Up and the parking strategy that will be presented under new business.

She updated the board on the Harrisburg Survey for Phase 2. Only one bid came back in since it went out for rebid. The contract will be awarded on December 11, 2009.

The Clean Augusta Downtown Initiative weekly report was in board member books for review. The year is being ended very strong. The commission has been asked to help CADI find private funding for the program. Money has been borrowed from the city with an interest rate and it has become very messy.

Christmas Light-Up was a tremendous success with record crowds. The DDA has been working on this program for about three years and to date \$137,000.00 has been raised by the private sector for new decorations and the event itself.

The Hyatt Place is now an active project. Ms. Woodard is working on applying for low interest loans and new market tax credits.

All meetings with the commissioners have been completed.

We are working on banner standards for the city to look at next year.

Next month Ms. Woodard and Mr. Nixon will submit to the board for approval the 2010 operating budget.

The DDA website overhaul will begin in January.

A complete copy of the director's report was in board member books for the board to review.

Mr. King asked Ms. Woodard to ask Mr. Cassell to come to the board meeting next month.

A revised committee list was in board member books for the board to review.

Ms. Woodard asked for a motion to accept the Director's Report as information. Mr. Nixon made the motion with a second from Mr. King. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mr. Loyd and Ms. Woodard presented the proposed Broad Street Corridor Parking Strategy presentation.

Mr. Loyd and Ms. Woodard have been working on parking since 2005. Since then they have visited several cities including Savannah, Athens, and Charlotte to see first-hand the parking management strategies in place.

In Downtown Augusta, there are approximately 2,100 on-street parking spaces. The current ordinance allows for enforcement Monday-Friday from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. The current ordinance is difficult to enforce due to no adjudication process in place. Currently, the system is abused with commuters and employees parking where they want, when they want, and for how long they want. This has an adverse effect on downtown businesses. The Parking Committee has concluded that a parking management strategy needs to be implemented. Their recommendation is to bring meters back to Downtown Augusta and meter about 1,000 parking spaces.

The plan will produce increased parking turnover and allow for convenient curbside spaces for visitors to downtown. Ultimately, additional revenue will be generated for improvements in the downtown area. It is proposed that the DDA manage the parking entity.

Ms. Woodard introduced Mr. Ted Russ, Mr. Robert Cizek, and Mr. Joel Wascher. They have been working very closely with the Parking Committee for the past six months.

Two public meetings are scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>. The proposed plan is posted on the DDA website. The DDA website allows the public to submit questions and/or comments.

A copy of the presentation is on file at the DDA office.

The Parking Committee asked the DDA board to accept the parking proposal and approve it for movement forward in terms of continuing with public meetings and to take to the commission for approval. Mr. King made the motion with a second by Mr. Nixon. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Loyd thanked the board for allowing the Parking Committee to make the parking presentation.

Mr. Kendrick stated that the board should go into closed session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate and personnel issues. All board members present voted in favor of going into closed session.

The board went into closed session.

The board came out of closed session.

Mr. Kendrick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hadden made the motion with a second from Mr. Bowling. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bowling, Secretary