

Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2013

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia was held December 12, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the DDA office located at 936 Broad Street, Suite 107. Those members in attendance were Sanford Loyd, Cameron Nixon, Scylance Scott, Jr., and Executive Director Margaret Woodard. Steven Kendrick joined the meeting at 9:00 am. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, Al Dallas of the Mayor's Office, Camille Price of Augusta Tomorrow, and Travis Ragsdale of WRDW.

Mr. Nixon called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Due to lack of a quorum, the approval of the minutes was postponed until another member arrived.

In the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Loyd presented the financials for November 2013 which also included year-to-date.

On the Profit & Loss Budget Performance (DDA Operating) Report we are tracking close to budget on most items.

The year-to-date income exceeds the year-to-date budgeted amount due to the retail recruitment sponsorship. Also the year-to-date expenses exceed the year-to-date budgeted amount due to the retail recruitment.

The balance sheet as of November 30, 2013 was reviewed.

The Profit & Loss Budget Performance (Consolidated) Report is in board books.

There is nothing unusual to report in the Treasurer's Report or financial statements through the month of November 2013.

The city passed the 2014 budget. The city's finance department is working with department heads to create a strategy for creating the 2.4 percent reductions.

Due to lack of a quorum, the board moved to the Director's Report as unable to accept the Treasurer's Report as information.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Woodard updated the board on the following:

Active Economic Development Projects

Other

- Eros Bistro and Roosters Beak have both closed.
- Two businesses, Crate & Vine and an old Irish pub, to open early 2014.
- Puritan Candle has opened on upper Broad Street.
- A knit wear shop has opened on 8th Street.
- A barber shop has relocated to the Johnson Building.
- Lender interest in the proposed hotel at the Augusta Common which will be discussed under New Business on the agenda.

Georgia Cities Foundation (GCF)

- Loan for 1120 Jones Street is under review at GCF.
- Loan for 905 Broad Street is in underwriting and will be our first federal loan.
- We have four loan applications ready for 2014.

Downtown Programs

Retail Strategy

- Retail Strategies and developer visit to Augusta to look at a mixed-use project was postponed due to weather. However, they did have a conference call with the city administrator regarding the city looking at doing an overall program.
- They also had a conference call with Mr. Cedric Johnson of GRU to discuss GRU plans and master planning.
- Retail Strategies is planning on rescheduling their trip to Augusta after the holidays.

Grant Projects

James Brown Boulevard Phase I

- We have received re-bid approval from Moreland Altobelli Associates and the procurement form has been submitted.
- This should go out for bid before the end of the year or after January 1st.

Christmas Light-Up Spectacular - December 7th

- We partnered with Twelve Bands of Christmas for the event this year.
- Event and fireworks were executed despite the weather.

Other:

- Ms. Woodard is currently working on reports that have to be submitted to the state by December 29th.

- Ms. Woodard is working on a guest op-ed with Mr. Nixon.

GRU Day – January 16, 2014

- The logo is completed.
- The mobile phone app is being built and is being marketed with student volunteers.
- The band “People Who Must” will perform at the Augusta Common followed by fireworks.
- GRU will issue a press release at the beginning of the year.

SPLOST VI Project/Riverwalk

- The RFP is completed and is ready for committee review.

A complete copy of the Director’s Report is in board books.

Under New Business, the board moved to the Augusta Tomorrow update agenda item due to lack of a quorum.

Ms. Price gave the board an Augusta Tomorrow update.

The board thanked Ms. Price for her update.

With Mr. Kendrick’s arrival the meeting now had a quorum. In the absence of Mr. Hadden, Mr. Nixon presented for approval the previous meeting minutes from November 14, 2013. With no additions or corrections, Mr. Scott made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Loyd seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

With the lack of a quorum earlier in the meeting, Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as information. Mr. Scott made the motion. Mr. Loyd seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, in the absence of Legal Counsel Warlick, Ms. Woodard discussed the request from Legacy Hospitality regarding a resolution adopted in April 15, 2010. The adopted resolution was for the bonding for the parking deck. Mr. Dusseau has an interested lender and wants an updated resolution to reflect a December 2013 adoption date as the one they currently have is three years old.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to approve the request in the issuance of this resolution updated with the proper dates. Mr. Scott made the motion. Mr. Kendrick seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if there was any further discussion or comments. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mr. Nixon discussed establishing a Riverwalk committee, retail committee, and a funding discovery committee. These three new committees would deal with specific issues.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to constitute these three committees with appointments or volunteers made at a later date. Mr. Scott made the motion. Mr. Loyd seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a closed session to discuss a real estate matter. Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Loyd made the motion. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if any further discussion. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The board went into closed session at 9:20 a.m. and came out of closed session at 9:38 a.m.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Loyd made the motion. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to support the project as discussed subject to the city's backing. Mr. Kendrick made the motion. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if any further questions, discussion, or comments. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nixon adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Nixon, Chairman