

**Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2009**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was held October 22, 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, Commissioner J. R. Hatney, Cameron Nixon, Mark Bowling, Julian Roberts, Legal Counsel Byrd Warlick, and Executive Director Margaret Woodard. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, CADI Project Manager Jessica Fuselier, citizen Malcolm Page, George Eskola of WJBF, Tim Rausch of the Augusta Chronicle, David Hutchison of d(a)², Juriah Lewis of Transportation Planning for Augusta-Richmond County, Camille Price of Augusta Tomorrow, Erik Montgomery of Historic Augusta, Brian Piascik of URS, Steve Cassell of Traffic Engineering for Augusta-Richmond County, Arielle Clay of NBC Augusta, and Chris Thomas of WRDW.

Mr. Kendrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

Mr. Roberts presented the previous meeting minutes from September 10, 2009. With no additions or corrections, Commissioner Hatney made the motion to accept the previous meeting minutes with a second by Mr. Nixon. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

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

The financials reflected September operating total income in the amount of \$17,437.87. This amount largely consists of monthly city funding received for operations and the salary of the staff. September operating expenses were in the amount of \$3,737.27 with a net income in the amount of \$13,700.60. For a couple of months, the reports will reflect an excess in income but this will wash out once the city bills for staff salaries. The city bills us quarterly for staff salaries.

The following operating amounts were reflected for January 2009 through September 2009: total income in the amount of \$157,067.93, total expenses in the amount of \$305,253.30, and net income in the amount of -\$148,185.37 which is a deficit amount due to the DDA not being billed by the city on a regular basis.

The Saturday Market financials for September 2009 were not discussed but were in board member books for review.

The board reviewed the SPLOST information compiled by Ms. Woodard.

Commissioner Hatney made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as information with a second by Mr. King. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Woodard explained that the GA DOT has approved the transfer of the 2006 Depot Grant for \$562,500 to the James Brown Boulevard Streetscape project for a total of \$815,500.00. A new project scope is underway. The Ellis Street Streetscape has been completed. The city signed off on the project.

The Harrisburg survey for Phase 1 of the Historic Preservation Grant has been completed. 87% of the buildings in Harrisburg do contribute to the historic character of the district. Phase 2 will begin in January.

The CADI weekly report was in board books for review. CADI has picked up some fee for services work. Segway advertising program is underway. CADI will also be installing the Christmas lights and installation will begin next week.

The Fall Market is Saturday, October 24th and will be from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. Sponsorship campaign for 2010 is underway. Saturday Market has a bank balance in the amount of \$17,950.85. This is the healthiest end of the market bank balance that the market has ever had. Ms. Woodard praised Mrs. Fuselier and Mrs. Fuselier received a round of applause from the board.

The Design Committee met on October 9th to discuss the Riverwalk Initiative. It appears the city may have some money available in capital improvement. The DDA is going to allocate some SPLOST money as well. The committee's goal is to raise \$50,000.00 in private partners. A meeting is scheduled next month with the city to discuss partnership.

The contracts for the Broad Street tree well project have been approved by the city. The project should begin in November. It will start on the south side of 13th Street and stop on the south side of 9th Street. Then they will do the north side of 9th Street to 13th Street. They hope to have the retail end completed by Christmas. This project has been signed off on by everybody including the city and the Tree Commission. There is an example of the tree well in front of the Sun Trust Building. The pavers are a natural irrigation system.

City Administrator Fred Russell has been emailed regarding using SPLOST money to put a new roof on the Depot to be reimbursed upon sale of property. Ms. Woodard has not received a response from Mr. Russell as he is out due to surgery. Ms. Woodard will follow-up.

The city has approved Christmas Light Up Spectacular and we are in the planning stages. The goal is to raise \$15,000.00 in private partnerships and to date \$10,000.00 has been raised.

The Georgia Downtown Conference for 2010 has been awarded to Augusta. The conference will be held September 28, 2010 through October 1, 2010. Planning will begin in January 2010.

There are four requests for Georgia Cities loans that have been received by Ms. Woodard. The foundation has \$1.9 million that has come back in.

Our active economic development projects are on hold due to the economy which includes the hotel at the Commons currently on hold due to the TEE Center. The DDA is working with a microbrewery and there is still a contract on the Marion Building for 52 market rate apartments. The Johnson Building which sold about two weeks ago has been sold again. Ms. Woodard has spoken with the new owner. The sale of the Fort Discovery Building has been posted on the DDA website.

All of the 2008 and 2009 DDA board meeting minutes have been posted on the DDA website. The audits for 2007 and 2008 will also be posted on the DDA website. A CVB grant has been applied for to update the DDA website.

Commissioner Hatney made a motion to accept the Director's Report as information with a second by Mr. King. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, the final trolley report presentation was moved ahead of the Nominating Committee's new business. Ms. Woodard introduced Mr. Brian Piascik of URS. Mr. Piascik presented the final trolley report PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is on file at the DDA office. Mr. Kendrick thanked Mr. Piascik for his presentation.

Mr. King made a motion to accept the final trolley report as information and that the report goes to the Economic Restructuring Committee for further discussion. Mr. Nixon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mr. Kendrick deferred to the Nominating Committee Chairman Mr. Roberts to present the nominations for new directors. Both Mr. Roberts and Mr. King's seats are up for renewal. Mr. King has been nominated to return for another term. Mr. Joey Hadden of Phoenix Commercial Printing has been nominated to replace Mr. Roberts.

The Nominating Committee made the recommendation in the form of a motion to reappoint Mr. King to complete 2009 through 2013 and to first time appoint Mr. Hadden to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Roberts. Commissioner Hatney made a second to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The nominations will be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Mr. Bowling asked Mr. Cassell for a lighting project update. Mr. Cassell says they are still waiting on the state to approve the TIP.

Mr. Kendrick asked for a motion to go into closed legal session. Mr. Roberts made a first to the motion with a second by Mr. Nixon. All were in favor and the motion passed

unanimously. The reason for closing the meeting was to discuss the future acquisition of real estate.

The board went into closed session.

The board came out of closed session. Mr. Kendrick asked for a recommendation from the floor. A motion was made by Commissioner Hatney that the committee that has been designated to look into future activities pertaining to real estate are authorized to do so. Mr. Nixon seconded the recommendation. All were in favor and the recommendation passed unanimously.

Mr. Kendrick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hatney made a first to the motion with a second by Mr. Nixon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julian Roberts, Secretary