

Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia was held September 13, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the DDA office located at 936 Broad Street, Suite 107. Those members in attendance were Cameron Nixon, Joey Hadden, Scylance Scott, Jr., Natalie McLeod, Commissioner Hatney joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m., Legal Counsel Byrd Warlick, and Executive Director Margaret Woodard. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, Housing and Development Director Chester Wheeler, Camille Price with Augusta Tomorrow, CADI Program Manager Jessica Fuselier, Augusta resident Nathan Hertel, Chris Selmek with Verge, LaTina Emerson with The Augusta Chronicle, and Rick Keuroglian with the Olde Town Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Nixon called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Hadden presented the previous meeting minutes from July 12, 2012. With no additions or corrections, Mr. Hadden asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mr. Scott, Jr. made the motion. Ms. McLeod seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked for comments. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott, Jr. thanked Mr. Nixon for his many years of outstanding leadership in the role of treasurer. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to Mrs. Walls and Ms. Woodard for their support in the transition of vice chairman and treasurer.

In the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Scott, Jr. presented the financials.

The Profit & Loss Budget Performance (DDA Operating) Report reflected total income in the amount of \$14,969.17 and total expenses in the amount of \$2,440.02 for the month of August. It also reflected for January through August total income in the amount of \$122,304.41 and total expenses in the amount of \$57,639.24.

Total expenses do not include payroll expenses for 2nd Quarter as we are still waiting on the city salary payback invoice from the city.

Mr. Scott, Jr. commended Ms. Woodard and Mrs. Walls for the outstanding job they are doing in maintaining expenses.

The Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2012 reflected total checking and savings in the amount of \$186,865.51. The parking decks are still being reflected as we are still waiting on a response from the city.

With no questions from the board Mr. Scott, Jr. made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked for any comments. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Active ED Projects

Georgia Cities Foundation Revolving Loans

- A loan application for 758 Broad Street (Johnson Building) was approved at the last board meeting for submission. The application is under review with the Foundation.
- Letter of intent signed for 1120 Jones Street. The application will possibly be ready for board submission approval at the October board meeting.
- Letter of intent for 220-222 6th Street is being held as the property owner is struggling with Historic Tax Credits.

Other

- Bath Fitter located on the 1200 block of Broad Street held their Grand Opening on September 5th.
- New Moon Café held their Grand Reopening on August 28th.

SPLOST V Projects

Olde Town

- HOA has had a turnover and have a new group.
- HOA is working with the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau on designing the wayfinding signage in which the DDA Board previously approved in the amount of \$7,000.00.

Pilot SPLOST Project

- The board approved an application for The Richmond on Greene (725 Greene Street) at the July board meeting. We have met with contractors and there is a preliminary design. It is new sidewalk, curb cuts, landscaping and because it is a state highway we will have to get additional approvals.

Downtown Programs

CADI

- The monthly reports are in board notebooks for review.
- Graffiti removal is free.
- When the BID petition drive begins we will also have the property owners sign a hold harmless agreement which will allow CADI to automatically remove graffiti.
- Key property owners have given us permission to remove graffiti and in the last couple of weeks about 17 graffiti removals have been done.
- Hours have been adjusted for First Friday to assist the Sheriff's Department.

- Sunday hours have been restored for twice a month.
- We cannot remove handbills from private property only public property.
- The annual report and surveys have been mailed to property owners and results are being tabulated for review.
- The 2013 Management Plan is underway.
- We have met with the Tax Assessor's Office.

CADI works with several organizations. Ms. Woodard used Arts in the Heart as an example. Arts Council Executive Director Brenda Durant is purchasing trash bags for CADI for the closed streets. CADI is going to help when they see trash that needs to be emptied they will do so. During events CADI is busy distributing rack cards, assisting people with getting them where they need to be as well as where they can park, and trash removal. Each event is discussed to find out the needs of the group that is handling the event and how CADI can assist.

CADI has three people out during the First Friday event until directed otherwise by Capt. Gay. They are visible and at 9:00 p.m. they are cleaning up and telling everyone that the event is over.

Our office has not received any complaints from business owners in regards to street closings for Arts in the Heart.

Grant Projects

James Brown Blvd. Phase 1

- Ms. Woodard has met with Senior Staff Attorney Wayne Brown with the Augusta Law Department to discuss the contract to get the project started.
- She will meet with Mr. George Patty, director of Augusta Planning and Development, on Friday to see if he and Mr. Abie Ladson, director of Augusta Traffic Engineering, to see if they can assist in administering the grant.

Christmas Light-Up Spectacular (CLUS)– Saturday, December 1st

- Media sponsors are in place.
- The budgets have been completed.
- The Miss Augusta Christmas Fantasy Parade will start at 2:00 p.m. on Broad Street.
- After the foot parade, there will be family fun at the Augusta Common along with the mayor who will light up the city.
- The Lighted Boat Parade will return this year and will begin at 6:00 p.m. WRDW has agreed to sponsor and will televise "live".
- CLUS Steering Committee will meet on September 25th.

Other

- Ms. Woodard met with Mr. Tom Robertson of Cranston Engineering to come up with some creative ideas for the \$100,000.00 of SPLOST VI that has been allocated for the Riverwalk. She will schedule a committee meeting.
- Our money for SPLOST VI becomes available the 4th Quarter of 2013.
- All board members have received DDA training.
- Emphasis from now until the end of the year will be the BID, James Brown Blvd., and Christmas Light-Up Spectacular.

The First Friday Task Force was put together by Commissioner Aitken and City Administrator Fred Russell after the First Friday incident to look at improvements to make the event better and safer. Vendor guidelines are stricter and police presence has been in full force to make sure the event is safe.

Ms. Woodard and Ms. McLeod attended the Georgia Downtown Conference held in LaGrange, Georgia. There are several new initiatives including a Downtown Renaissance Tax Credit and a new program called "Investment Ready Downtown". Also they are starting a State Small Business Credit Initiative through local credit unions. A group from Atlanta will be in Augusta to explain the initiative to our local credit unions in October.

The BID petition drive will begin October 1st and it will consist of the current CADI boundaries. The Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau had discussed adding a gateway to the current boundaries but after some research it is better for them to do a Community Improvement District (CID). We have offered our help to them once we have completed our BID petition drive.

A complete copy of the Director's Report is in board notebooks for review.

Mr. Nixon thanked Ms. Woodard for the Director's Report.

Mr. Nixon introduced Housing and Development Director Chester Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler gave a brief update on the Laney-Walker/Bethlehem area.

The board thanked Mr. Wheeler for his report.

Mr. Nixon presented a Pilot SPLOST application received from Augusta Tomorrow on behalf of the Springfield Park Foundation for Springfield Village Park in the amount of \$7,000.00. They want to clean up the reflecting pools as they have leaked heavily and contain weeds and trash. This request is to help change the pools from water to plantings. The total private capital project cost is \$159,333.00. The Pilot SPLOST Committee has met to review the application and recommended moving forward with the application.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to approve the Pilot SPLOST application received from Augusta Tomorrow for Springfield Village Park in the amount of \$7,000.00.

Commissioner Hatney made the motion. Mr. Scott, Jr. seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woodard told the board that T-SPLOST passed and that downtown will be a huge beneficiary with Broad Street getting a total make over from Washington Road down to East Boundary.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Nixon adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joey Hadden, Secretary