



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY of Augusta

Downtown Development Authority of Augusta Board Meeting Minutes May 18, 2023

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on May 18, 2023, at 10am at Auben Realty, located at 909 Walker Street.

DDA board members and staff in attendance were Chairman Jack Evans, Vice-Chairman James Heffner, Secretary-Treasurer Stephen King, Phuong Nguyen, State Court Judge Ashanti Lilley Pounds, Pastor Anthony Booker, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Project Coordinator Katherine Bonner, and Legal Counsel Jeb Murray. Also in attendance were Chris Johnson from the Land Bank Authority, Justin Prince from the Augusta Economic Development Authority, Ian Harris from Bloc Power, and John Snider from SME CPAs.

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 10:02am. He thanked Auben Realty and board member Phuong Nguyen for hosting.

Mr. King introduced the consent agenda, which included the March 2023 meeting minutes and March and April 2023 financial reports. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Heffner made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Mr. Nguyen, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woodard presented the Director's Report, highlighting the following:

Economic Development

Lamar Building engagement letter with Kirby Glaze has been approved by the board, and next steps are underway.

Curtis Baptist Church property is under contract with a Florida developer. The proposed site will be mixed-use with 250 market rate apartments.

All paperwork for the award phase of the microenterprise center grant has been completed, and we have moved to active phase. Project guidelines and funds are expected in the very near future. We have submitted a grant request for PHASE 2 in the amount of \$3 million for a retail/small business center.

The Brunch House is moving forward with their proposed new location on 7th Street.

2022 statistics are completed: net gain of 47 new businesses, 11 expansions and 93.2 million in private investment.

Security Federal Ribbon Cutting 4/18.

Sculpture Trail Ribbon Cutting 4/21.

Groundbreaking ceremony Bell Auditorium 5/4.

Design

5th Street wifi is completed.

Blighted building inventory has been updated and next steps are in process.

A MOU has been signed for new furniture for the marina and furniture will be ordered.

Marketing

Website for TIA Project Updates: augustadtp.com

Database has been completed by DDA, and PSAs are underway

Organization

2022 Audit completed.

City of Perry 4/14.

Women in Business Panel Speaker 4/18.

Leadership Augusta Executive Forum 4/21.

Black Chamber Shark Tank Competition 5/7.

Augusta Tomorrow Board Meeting 5/9.

Lunch with Maria Cook Senator Warnock's Office 5/16.

Katherine Bonner graduates from Leadership Augusta 5/18.

Under New Business, Mr. Johnson provided updates on the Land Bank Authority's work and invited DDA board and staff to the 2023 Land Bank Conference.

Mr. Harris discussed clean energy technology resources and opportunities for downtown businesses and property owners.

Mr. Snider introduced and reviewed the DDA 2022 Audit. Pastor Booker made a motion to approve the audit, with a second by Mr. Heffner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Evans closed the meeting by reminding everyone of the long-term implications of empowering small business owners in downtown Augusta and reinforcing the DDA's strategic areas of focus,

The meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen King
Secretary-Treasurer