



**DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
of Augusta

**Downtown Development Authority of Augusta
Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023**

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on August 17, 2023, at 10am at the Georgia Power offices, located at 1 10th Street, Suite 430.

DDA board members and staff in attendance were Chairman Jack Evans (via call-in), Vice-Chairman James Heffner, Secretary-Treasurer Stephen King, Phuong Nguyen, Pastor Anthony Booker, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Project Coordinator Katherine Bonner, Consultant Tara Wood, and Legal Counsel Jeb Murray. Also in attendance were Ryan Mahoney from Parlay, LLC; HB Brantley from the Augusta Coliseum Authority; Jim Plunkett from Plunkett, Hamilton, Manton & Graves, LLP; Chuck Branch from NextSite (via Zoom); and John Clarke from The Augusta Press.

Vice-Chairman Heffner called the meeting to order at 10:00am. He thanked Mr. King and Georgia Power for hosting and welcomed guests.

Mr. King introduced the consent agenda, which included the May 2023 special called meeting minutes and May, June, and July 2023 financial reports. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Pastor Booker, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Economic Development

Active Projects:

Lamar Building:

- Economic Impact Report underway by Georgia Power
- Documents in preparation for board approval in September

Microenterprise Center:

- MOU executed
- Lease approved with City
- Project timeline completed (attached)
- LLC paperwork underway
- Creation of oversight board underway
- Operating Agreement underway (Board of Directors)

- Nick Dickinson/McKnight selected, next steps are demolition permit and hazardous material report (kick-off meeting 8/16/23)
- Asset mapping, programming, and fundraising in process
- Visiting other centers to learn best practices

Brunch House:

- SSBCI loan underway

401 Greene Street (Khar's Grocery)

- \$200,000 October loan closing anticipated with Georgia Cities Foundation

How to Start a Business Guide has been updated

34 new businesses and 3 expansions to-date in 2023

Design

Grants:

- \$1.76 million awarded by Governor Kemp for Downtown Connector (see attached)
- Submitted as a collaborative effort by the City, DDA, Cranston, & property owners
- Meeting held 6/30. City will be managing funding and timeline

Arches:

- 10th Street work is underway with 8th Street scheduled for end of October

Marketing

- PSA for AugustaDTP.com is completed. WRDW and WJBF will run the spot as a community partner
- Augusta was featured in August Issue of Georgia Trend Magazine with a collaborative ad
- Margaret is featured as part of the Georgia 500 in its October issue

Organization

ACE

- Quarterly Report submitted 6/15 and 3rd disbursement has been received
- Statistics (July 2022-June 2023):
 - 17,779 block faces cleaned
 - 817 trash bags filled and disposed
 - 610 power washing hours
 - 759 special project cleaning hours

SSBCI Bankers Luncheon held with DCA and GABC 5/23

Other:

2024 Budget Request submitted 8/4

Presentation to Commission 8/8

Mr. Evans motioned to receive the report as information, with Mr. Heffner seconding. The vote was unanimous.

Under New Business, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Brantley, and Mr. Plunkett discussed the upcoming C SPLOST vote for the James Brown Arena. Additionally, Mr. Branch presented NextSite's new data and demographics platform, powered by AlphaMaps, which replaced its former contract with Placer.ai. Both presentations were received as information.

Chairman Evans closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Heffner for president, Mr. King for hosting, and everyone for their continued efforts downtown.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen King
Secretary-Treasurer