

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, September 14, 2006
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

ROLL CALL

BOARD PRESENT: Alan Hooper, Chair
Peter Feldman, Vice Chair
Jack T. Loos, Secretary
Gale Butler, Treasurer
Charles B. Ladd, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Doug Eagon, Board Member
William R. Scherer, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager
Chuck Adams, Budget Consultant
Neil Sterling, Governmental Liaison
Erin Emmons, Planning Assistant
Kate Sheffield, Planning Intern
Patsy Mennuti
Eric Zahn
Jim Van Drunen
Richard Mancuso
John Aurelus
Errol Taylor
Paul Kiley
Irvin Minney
Andrea Scarborough
John Lafferty
Phil Smelley
Bonnie Barnett
Sidney Calloway

PRESIDING: Alan Hooper, Chair

Mr. Hooper called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Mr. Wren. All Board members were present except for Mr. Eagon, Mr. Scherer, and Mrs. Butler. Mr. Hooper recognized Commissioner Teel and thanked her for attending.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Hooper asked if any items were to be pulled. Hearing none, he called for a motion approving the items on the Consent Agenda. A motion was moved by Mr. Loos and seconded by Mr.

Ladd. The following items were unanimously approved:

C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow-ups from the August 10, 2006 Board Meeting and the minutes from the August 18, 2006 Special Meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Major Kiley told the Board he would no longer be servicing the Downtown area, his replacement would be present at the next Board meeting. He went on to say that crime was down and from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. seven days a week, a police officer will be specially assigned to patrol Riverwalk. He also said that there are 31 officers in training, so it may seem like a lot of officers on the street. After a year of training, they will then be on their own. He also noted that there is a speeding machine on 15th Ave and SE 4th St tracking what hours of the day people tend to speed, so that police will know when they should patrol the areas.

Mr. Loos directed staff to commend Major Kiley and Department on all their efforts through a commendation. Mr. Wren then thanked Major Kiley for all his help with the Dog Days of Summer Event.

All Board members thanked Major Kiley for his service.

R-2 Transit Presentation

Mr. Calloway was not present, so this item was moved until after R-3.

Mr. Calloway arrived and began his presentation about the Florida Transit 2020. He went over the 3 key issues – transit service, funding, and planning & policy. He stressed the implementation of mass transit systems that connect to regional systems. Mrs. Butler arrived at the meeting. Mr. Halloway eluded that if localities have a plan, it will most likely be supported at the State level.

Mr. Hooper clarified that Miami-Dade has a half cent sales tax dedicated for transit and mentioned that Miami-Dade is ahead of us.

Mr. Hooper thanked Mr. Calloway for his support and announced that the Board would go back to the regular meeting and moved on to the Budget hearing at 5:01 p.m.

R-3 Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum

Mr. Vandrunin introduced himself and Mr. Aurelius and explained the objectives of their museum.

1. The City of Fort Lauderdale does not have a child safety program.
2. It is a beautiful facility and we are continuing to restore.
3. Explain the history of the fire department.

He said the museum is in its third year of operation and was built in 1927 by architect Abreu. He went on to explain the need to restore the dilapidated structure. There are holes in the roof, no water,

no sewer. He went over what projects need to be finished to include \$20,000 for building preservation, finishing of the museum, and the creation of a safety program.

He said sponsorship and donations are needed: public grants, private gifts, openings on the board - it is a 501 c 3 tax deductible organization. He emphasized that they are not trying to solicit money from the DDA, rather looking to gain the DDA member's influence. He also mentioned that he'd like the trolleys to extend to the museum.

Mr. Vandrunin and Mr. Aurelius then recognized Mr. Loos for his donation and presented him with a white fire helmet.

Mr. Hooper thanked both speakers and went back to R-2.

R-4 Transit Update

Mr. Hooper reconvened the regular meeting.

Mr. Smelley said we are on schedule on all fronts and \$25,000 under budget. He also clarified that the \$1.865 million figure is made up by the initial \$87,000 plus the AA/EA contract of \$1.776 million. Mr. Wren interjected that the DDA will be receiving \$95,000 from the MPO, which is a significant portion of their discretionary funds. Mr. Wren then thanked the Board for having faith in staff to find the unfunded portion.

Mr. Smelley then went on about the project dates and stated that by April of 2007, the team will be ready to move into Preliminary Engineering/Final Design (PE/FD), which is anticipated to cost approximately \$10.843 million. The plan is to make the DDA's financial burden as small as possible.

Mr. Hooper brought up the change in language the Federal government did for the initial \$990,000 expected to pay for AA/EA and asked if we should anticipate the same problems moving forward into the next stage. Mr. Smelley clarified that we did not lose that money; it will be available once we have moved into the PE/FD phase, which we will know if we pass between February and April of 2007.

Mr. Loos asked Mr. Smelley his confidence level for our project passing. Mr. Smelley said the project is being looked at favorably. However, the cost effectiveness will score low because of the short distance and number of frequencies. He said that in the areas of economic development and financial commitment, scores will be high. He also noted that the State has had dialogue with the Federal government on our project and they are receiving the same positive message that our project is favorable.

He went on to say that we are already included in the Transportation Long Range Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan, which are good indicators of the success level we have.

Mr. Loos asked questions pertaining to timeframes if the project was to be done as one large project or if it were to be broken down into phases. Mr. Smelley said it will still take the same amount of time to finish both components, whether it is implemented as one project or two phases.

Mr. Milledge brought the transition to the County and how and when that will take place. He told the Board the dialogue needs to occur since they are going to be operating the system. Mr. Smelley told the Board that this dialogue will take place between April and August, when a full funding grant agreement can be completed.

Mr. Smelley also noted that the computer simulation will be ready between October and November.

Mr. Loos said that he is amazed at the progress thus far and recognized the “team” efforts.

Mr. Wren then went over the planned transit trip scheduled for October 18th – October 20th. He mentioned that he and Mr. Feldman went on a preliminary trip to the three initial cities and resolved that only going to Portland will be more beneficial. **Mr. Ladd requested base information/comparison data be supplied to all trip attendees. Mr. Wren said that a package will be created and given to everyone going on the trip.** Mr. Wren recognized Commissioner Teel for being the first person to RSVP.

There were questions on the accuracy of the current Downtown Regional Activity Center (D-RAC) population of 65,000. **It was directed for staff and consultants to confirm the current D-RAC population.**

Mr. Hooper thanked Mr. Smelley and moved on to the next item.

R-5 CIP Update

Mr. Hooper went over the meeting he and Mr. Wren, Mr. Milledge, and Mr. Sterling attended with City Manager, George Gretsas. He said that the City would like a few areas to be changed within the CIP, but overall it was a constructive meeting. He also mentioned that Mr. Gretsas showed interest in being the applicant for the County Redevelopment Grant. He mentioned that Marc LaFerrier, City Planning Director pulled him aside and complimented the CIP package efforts and said this has comprehensive data that has never been pulled together like this.

Mr. Hooper said we need to help bridge the County/City relationship. He also said he and Ms. Veliky met on the CIP marketing package and came up with the final product that was provided in the Board backup. Mrs. Butler questioned why we would anticipate getting money from the Children’s Service Council, as outlined on the implementation’s page. Mr. Wren replied that all funding sources were shown to reflect how much revenue is being generated from Downtown sources.

Mr. Ladd was a little unsure of the implementation page and Mr. Hooper asked him to help us to more clearly represent what we’re trying to accomplish on that page. **Ms. Veliky was directed to coordinate with Mr. Ladd.**

R-6 Discussion on Bond Fund Expenditures

Mr. Wren opened the discussion with the monies in the bond funds of \$1 million in Flagler Heights and \$1.5 million south of the river.

Mr. Loos went over 3rd Avenue at 6th Street (S of the River) and 3rd Avenue at 7th Street (S of the River), which is associated with the Judicial Complex project. He said we are in jeopardy of losing the Federal Courthouse. He said that as part of the judicial complex, 6th Street is planned to be made a pedestrian only street, so it would not make sense to do 6th. He recommended doing SE/SW 7th street from Federal Hwy to the railroad tracks.

Board members then went over possible streets. Mr. Sterling said that through the County Redevelopment Grant, we should spread our funds over several streets so we can show our committed dollars.

Mr. Loos then went on about the strategy of selecting and monitoring the consultants/contractors once these streets are put in motion. There was discussion about 2nd Street taking too long and costing way too much.

Discussion was then held about using County Redevelopment dollars for certain streets and Mr. Milledge clarified that the CRA area is not eligible for monies under this program.

Mr. Feldman said the CRA should come to the Board meeting and do a presentation on the Flagler Heights status.

Mr. Ladd made a motion to direct staff to do a Request for Letters of Interest for streetscape improvements to NE 5th Street between Federal Hwy and Andrews Avenue, NE 4th Street between Federal Hwy to the railroad tracks, and SE/SW 7th street between Federal Hwy and 4th Ave. Mr. Loos seconded it and by roll call vote, it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wren said that staff would report back at a future meeting for status of the engineering consultant for these streetscapes.

R-7 Light Art Project in Huizenga Plaza

Mr. Wren summarized the status of the lighting project and said that staff has done the due diligence in the selection process and recommend approval of up to and an additional \$176,000 (based on the City donating \$50,000) for project completion.

Mr. Ladd had reservations about the electrical services and requested that staff bring in an independent contractor to review all vendor proposals.

Mr. Loos made a motion to authorize staff under Mr. Ladd's direction to move forward with the project and dispense up to \$176,000 additional monies from the remaining General Obligation Bond funds. It was seconded by Mrs. Butler. By roll call vote, it was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Commissioner Teel invited everyone to the September 30th opening of the tennis center at George English Park; half of Jim Scott's discretionary funds went into it.

Mr. Milledge explained that the state-owned Gore Building might be sold and read the resolution in support of keeping it under state ownership. **Motion to approve the Gore Building resolution was made by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Mr. Loos. Resolution passed.**

Mr. Milledge read the resolution in support of the County's Boating Facility Siting Plan. **Mr. Loos made a motion to pass the Marine resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Feldman. Resolution passed.**

As there was no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

A taped recording of the full proceedings of the September 14, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board is on file in the DDA office – 305 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 301.