

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, March 13, 2008
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
New River Room West Side

ROLL CALL

BOARD PRESENT: Jack T. Loos, Chair
Gale Butler, Vice Chair
Charles B. Ladd, Secretary
Alan Hooper, Treasurer
William R. Scherer, Board Member
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
Peter Feldman, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Deb Hernandez
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Karen Dietrich
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager	Brittany Wallman
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Andrea Scarborough
Eric Liberman	Ron Centamore
John Lafferty	Bob McSweeney
Richard Mancuso	Leas Sareceno
R.C. Cartwright	Jonathan Roberson
Cate McCaffrey	Tim Petrillo

PRESIDING: Jack T. Loos, Chair

Chairman Loos called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Butler who arrived later.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Loos asked if there were any items anyone wanted to pull and hearing none, he asked if there was a motion approving the items on the Consent Agenda. ***A motion was moved by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Mr. Fazio. All board members were in favor.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow-ups from the February 14, 2008 DDA Regular Board Meeting and the minutes from the following Committee Meetings.
Marketing: 2/4/08, 2/11/08, 2/18/08, 2/25/08
Real Estate: 2/11/08
Finance: 2/12/08, 2/19/08

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Captain Dietrich said there have been 23 crimes, a couple of which were robberies. She said the main issue is vehicle burglaries. She described an incident that occurred where a description of a male was given and the individual was picked up and detained. However, the victim refused to ID the individual so they had to release him. She talked about the history the police have had with this individual and not being able to arrest him without a witness coming forth. They said he has a past history of burglaries and they feel he is the one they are looking for. She circulated a picture and said he resides at Covenant House. Chairman Loos asked if they have notified Covenant House and Captain Dietrich said yes but that they have not been working well with the police.

Captain Dietrich said regarding the homeless issue, there should be some improvement. She said they are doing 5:30 a.m. sweeps and they've added a homeless outreach person from 6-9 on the Riverfront. She said that officers have been ordered to increase their details on 2nd Street and the Riverfront. She added that there are bicycle officers on Fridays and Saturdays. Chairman Loos thanked her for her update.

R-2 City Noise Ordinance Update

Chairman Loos introduced Cate McCaffrey, the Director of Business Enterprises and Deb Hernandez, the Assistant Manager of Code Enforcement, both from the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. McCaffrey said they are working with a noise consultant to ensure any proposed changes will address the special entertainment districts and the downtown districts. She said the difference in this noise ordinance is that they will be able to take A & C scale noise readings and she explained this further. She said they will keep the Board up-to-date on the progress and that any changes will need to go before the City Commission.

Mr. Hooper asked if there was draft language. Ms. McCaffrey said yes, but that they still need further testing with reference to decibel issues. **Chairman Loos asked if the Board could get a copy of the draft language without the decibel information and Ms. McCaffrey said yes.**

Mr. Hooper asked if they are meeting with anyone from the special entertainment district before the Commission meeting and Ms. McCaffrey said she would be happy to do that. **Chairman Loos asked if Mr. Hooper would be a Committee of one to keep on top of this and follow-up and Mr. Hooper said yes.**

Mr. Scherer asked what the decibel level is in the current City ordinance and Ms. McCaffrey said between 55/60-75 depending on use and type of sound. Mr. Hooper said they should address how music is projected.

Chairman Loos said that Huizenga Plaza is part of the special entertainment area and he would like staff to work with the City on this issue.

Mr. Hooper asked if they've taken into consideration special events in Huizenga Park, Esplanade, New Year's Eve and 4th of July and she said yes. Ms. McCaffrey said she would talk with Mr.

Hooper next week and Chairman Loos said Mr. Wren should be included.

R-3 Transit

Mr. Wren said that at the last meeting the Board requested details of monies spent and received to date. He said they've also updated the funding strategy. He said this information is in their package. He said he will also talk about Work Authorization 8 in the way of an amendment and allocation of additional funds to cover an MPO shortfall.

The Board wanted clarification of the monies spent by the DDA and how much they received back from the federal government so far. Mr. Scherer wanted to know how much of the \$2.732 million dollars spent was DDA and how much was Federal money or other. Mr. Wren said it was all DDA monies. Mr. Scherer asked for the total Federal monies spent and Mr. Wren said they have not spent any. He said that money is for Advanced AA. Chairman Loos how much is still going to come through the County. Mr. Wren said the County received \$6 million dollars that is ready to be processed. Mr. Milledge said that they've had meetings with the County and that Dick Brossard will work on expediting the processing of this money. He said they know it's a priority. Mr. Scherer wanted to know where that \$6 million would go to. Mr. Wren said \$3 million will go into the general fund and \$3 million is designated for very specific projects as the FTA grants are outlined. He explained further.

Mr. Ladd said he is confused by all the numbers. **Mr. Ladd specifically requested: what was the original contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff, what was the original estimate of the cost for each stage, what has been spent and what is forecasted to be spent for each stage today.** He said the sources of funding the project are the DDA bond, grants, and Federal and local sources. He said the grants have come in for various things and he needs more clarification. At this time, Mrs. Butler arrived.

Mr. Ladd said he will be happy to help format this information. He said they need a clear record of where they started and where they are now. **Chairman Loos asked Mr. Ladd to be a committee of one to work on this.**

Mr. Fazio requested that they include an index in the front of the backup each time describing what all the acronyms mean. Mr. Wren said he will continue to work on making this easier to understand.

Mr. Scherer said that when approaching the DDA property owners to support the project, it's important to emphasize that they haven't spent any money from the property owners thus far.

Mr. Hooper said the press has said that Federal money is not there and is hard to get but it is achievable since they already have Federal funds earmarked for this project.

Mr. Wren said he would take Mr. Scherer's comments to the Marketing Committee.

Mr. Wren said that there is good news with the funding strategy. He said that today they have spent \$3.6 million but they will be getting back \$6 million. He said that Work Authorization 8 has been reduced in scope. Mr. Scherer said that the backup says that additional monies anticipated through groundbreaking is \$6.6 million and asked if this was new money. Mr. Wren said that all the \$6.6

million is new dollars and not part of the federal appropriations earmarked to date. He mentioned the federal monies earmarked to date should be kept in a contingency fund. Discussion held further.

Mr. Hooper asked if the Finance Committee could make this table read clearer and Mr. Ladd said yes. Chairman Loos said Mr. Ladd will take the lead and staff will support him.

Mr. Wren said he is seeking authorization to pay \$150,000 to cover the MPO shortfall to continue the project to date and authorization of the Work Authorization (WA) 8 Amendment. He went through the details and the scope changes. Ms. Veliky indicated that the Board previously approved WA 8, which was valued at \$2 million. Since the federal appropriations request came in at \$656,000 vs. the \$1 million requested and the MPO did not come to the table with the \$260,000 anticipated, WA 8's scope was reduced to \$1.326 million. She said this contract reduction also reduces the DDA's share by \$70,000. The Board discussed the monies that are at the County. Mr. Ladd departed.

Mr. Hooper made a motion that the Board approve Work Authorization 8 as presented and authorization to spend \$150,000 from transit bond funds provided that it is reimbursed from the \$6.6 million the County has that will come back to the DDA. Mr. Fazio seconded. There was no discussion. Roll call was taken and all approved.

Chairman Loos said that staff needs to meet with each Board member to take them through the financial details in a better format. Mr. Wren said he would work on this.

Mr. Wren introduced the committee update item.

Marketing: Mr. Hooper said the workshop with the City Commission went well. He complimented everyone for their participation and said the room was full. He said they did an email blast weekly until the meeting date getting the word out. He said they are going back to the City Commission on April 1st. Mr. Hooper said that since January, they've spent almost \$25,000 in Marketing. After Board discussion, ***Mr. Hooper made a motion that the Board authorizes the expenditure of up to \$50,000 from bond funds to be used for transit marketing and community outreach efforts subject to repayment from the federal appropriations money that needs to be transitioned from the County to the DDA. He said staff will report on the expenses. Mr. Fazio seconded. Roll call was taken and all approved.***

Mr. Hooper stressed the importance of getting local leaders and neighborhood people, especially Richard Mancuso and Genia Ellis to the next City Commission meeting. He said the item will be on the Conference and Regular Agendas. The Board indicated that getting people to the Conference meeting would be the most important.

Real Estate: Chairman Loos said he is pleased with the City Commission support and from the community. He thanked the Board and all the partners, residents, etc. He said what the Board is doing is important to the community. He said he is proud of what's been accomplished so far. He said they are still exploring options for property, either donated or bought and that they will work with willing sellers. Chairman Loos said he was encouraged by the City Commission support and it was interesting that so many people from different areas are getting interested.

Mr. Hooper asked if they will be ready with the questions the City Commission had from the

workshop so they can respond. Chairman Loos said they are expediting this analysis so they will be ready to present.

Mr. Scherer asked about the route selection decision. Chairman Loos said the City and County will ultimately decide the route but that the Board is recommending routes to them. Mr. Scherer expressed concern. Mr. Lafferty said they do have to go forward with one alternative but that they can make revisions to it and there will be opportunities to revise it.

Mrs. Butler said she read in the paper about an advisory board on mass transit and asked if they should be involved. Mr. Hooper said it has not formed yet. Mr. Milledge explained further. Chairman Loos said that once it moves forward, they should be involved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 Items submitted to Broward County Transit

Mr. Wren said other than what he put in the backup on this item, there is no other report.

Mr. Hooper said he wanted to thank Riverwalk Trust for such a nice event honoring the DDA. He said it was fun and he was honored. Chairman Loos said there were so many people in attendance including DDA former members and it was good to see them and have them recognized. Mr. Feldman said it was a nice event.

Mr. Feldman asked what the deadline was to submit to the FTA. Mr. Wren said they would go to the County and MPO in May/June. Mr. Liberman said they need an alternative selected by May/June. After discussion about the County and MPO agendas, staff said that June 14th is the date they would like a final endorsement from the MPO. Mr. Hooper expressed concern about the timeframe. **Mr. Loos asked Mr. Wren to work with Mr. Scherer and Mr. Milledge on the FTA schedule/strategy.**

Jonathan Roberson thanked Mr. Wren and the team for all their information. He said that on Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., there will be a Broward County Transit Workshop. He said this project will be discussed as well as the new charter review. Chairman Loos said that Mr. Wren and Mr. Sterling need to be there. Mr. Scherer suggested they put together a bullet point summary of facts and the history of the project for the County Commission. Chairman Loos said that is a good suggestion. Mrs. Butler suggested using relevant slides from the presentation. Chairman Loos asked Mr. Hooper to coordinate with Mr. Milledge.

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Loos adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.