

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, April 10, 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
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
Peter Feldman, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: William R. Scherer, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Brittany Wallman
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Karen Dietrich
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager	Ron Centamore
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Jim Blosser
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Jonathan Roberson
Eric Liberman	Patsy Mennuti
John Lafferty	Neil Sterling
Richard Mancuso	Laurie Watkins
R.C. Cartwright	Senator Skip Campbell
Alain Jean	

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 Mr. Scherer.

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 Mrs. Butler 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 March 13, 2008 DDA Regular Board Meeting and the minutes from the 1/9/08 Meeting with the City Manager's Office.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Captain Dietrich told the Board that the ongoing problem is vehicle burglaries in parking garages around Riverfront. She said hopefully everyone is seeing a dramatic change with regard to the homeless situation. She said it is a delicate situation. Captain Dietrich said that the Police and the City Manager's Office are working on creating an ordinance with reference to skateboarders. She said the State Attorney's Office has not felt that there is intent and she is hoping the ordinance will help them do more on this issue. Captain Dietrich said another issue has been etching where they use acid on windows damaging businesses.

Mr. Hooper said spray painting on glass ends up etching glass as well. He said he doesn't see a problem with skateboarding on the Riverwalk but once they go onto property and damage it, that's intent.

Chairman Loos made some suggestions: 1) that intent can be dealt with by posting signs. He said he would like staff to work with the City on getting postings done and 2) he suggested the possibility of the Board's general counsel meeting with the State's Attorney on the damages that have been done. Captain Dietrich said she will also look into signs as well. Chairman Loos thanked her for her report.

R-2 Tunnel Park Update

Mr. Blue said he spoke with Clay Wieland, Joe Abruzzino, and Al Carbon of the City to get an update on this project. Mr. Blue said that the DRC process is about to take place and plans will be submitted. He said the original project cost was \$1.5 million and has been reduced to \$500,000. He said the DRC analysis will take about three months and then the bid process will take an additional three months. He said construction is estimated for November of this year. Mr. Blue added that the DDA was awarded a \$25,000 BCIP Grant and that Rio Vista received a \$35,000 grant. Chairman Loos thanked Mr. Blue for the update. Mr. Wren acknowledged Mr. Blue for successfully obtaining the grant.

R-3 Transit

Mr. Wren indicated his presentation today would be brief.

a) Acknowledgement of City Commission Support & Approval of Project

Mr. Wren thanked everyone for their effort by getting the City's endorsement and partnership for the transit project.

Chairman Loos asked if someone would make a motion authorizing a Resolution thanking the City Commission for strong support and endorsement of the project and indicating that the DDA is looking forward to working with them. Mr. Hooper made a motion and Mr. Feldman seconded.

Chairman Loos asked Mr. Wren to work with Mr. Milledge on the Resolution. Chairman Loos thanked staff, the Board Members and the Consultant for all their work.

b) Analysis Update

Mr. Wren said there will be a series of analysis that will take place to make sure there are no fatal flaws. He said the City and the DDA agreed on the same alignment and the County will discuss the

alignment next. After they go to the County, the Consultant work gets finalized. Mr. Wren said final numbers will then come in regarding ridership projections and the travel demand forecast. He said this will take about 2-3 months. The Board wanted clarification on the timeframe. Mr. Lafferty said if they go to the County in June, they'd have the projections done in 2 months.

c) 30-Day Forecast (Contract Status)

Mr. Wren said this document provides a checks and balances of the consultant work and contract. He said they are on scope and nothing is over scope. He said they have the resources to finish all the items including the City's work regarding the extensions.

Mr. Hooper asked what the schedule is with going to the County. Mr. Wren explained in item d below.

d) Transit schedule (target dates for the County, MPO and FTA & all other meetings needed to get through FTA including the estimated date FTA will approve)

Mr. Wren said they estimate going to the County by the end of May or beginning of June and then they will go to the MPO. He said they will complete the LPA process and the consultant will finish the analysis and submit the information to the FTA. He said they have to submit twice to the FTA. Mr. Wren said the first submittal allows entrance into preliminary engineering and become eligible to receive federal funding. The second submittal will occur towards the end of design/construction and will allocate funds for construction. Mr. Wren said the anticipated date to complete construction and begin operation is late 2012.

e) Subcommittee Reports (Real Estate, Financial, Marketing/Public Outreach)

Marketing: Mr. Hooper said the assessment is the most important issue in the upcoming months. He said leaders from the residential areas will be coming to the next marketing meeting on Monday. He said they will ascertain what their needs are and work with the residential leaders. Mr. Hooper said the information they get from Mr. Sterling is beneficial and that he will be helping them next week at the meeting as well. Mr. Hooper said they have a great team. He thanked everyone for their commitment and thanked Elizabeth Veliky for all her work to date. Mr. Hooper said that in various discussions, the DDA's name and credentials have been uplifted over the last few years. He said marketing, PR, and community involvement are all important for the future.

Financial: Mr. Ladd said they are working on firming up government involvement and who the beneficiaries of the system are. He said this will take about 4-6 weeks.

Real Estate: Chairman Loos said that more recently they are working on the number of potential sites in the public and private sector. He said they sent out notices to possible willing sellers. He said they are working on something that will be a downtown legacy for everyone and the City and County, as something that will help the community grow.

Chairman Loos said that working with government support has been great and he is proud of the organizations and the jobs they've done to get us where they are now. He said to keep up the good work. He said the team effort has been great and he thanked everyone: staff, the consultant, the board's general counsel and the board's governmental liaison.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 Courthouse Update

Mr. Wren indicated there was a workshop held and that he, Mr. Loos, John Milledge, and Neil Sterling were in attendance. He said details are in their backup.

Other Business

Mr. Hooper made a motion that the Board authorizes the expenditure of \$12,000 a month from bond funds to hire a consultant as needed for the federal process. Mr. Fazio seconded. Roll call was taken and all approved.

Mr. Sterling said the County has an RFP out in which they are looking for a contractor to build a 10 courtroom addition in the criminal courts downtown. Mr. Sterling said he spoke to Pete Corwin last week. He said there will also be an RLA put out between now and June in which they will be soliciting from the private sector, turnkey parking facilities within an area they've identified. He said the Commission is fully supportive of these two items and they have the monies.

Mr. Sterling said they are going to continue planning the big court project. He said they have zeroed in on sites including ones they currently own. They will be designing the future courthouse with the hopes of finding a funding source available to them. He said the commitment from the County is strong. He said two major downtown projects (transit and courthouse) have strong support.

Mr. Wren said they gave a nice presentation to Tarpon River last week and they were supportive.

Mr. Wren said the annual audit process is taking place and it's going well.

Mr. Wren said the final details on the upcoming Washington trip were completed. The trip dates are 4/22 and 4/23 when they will meet with the FTA and the Delegation.

Mr. Milledge asked if the Board would appoint a committee of one to review legal fees. Mr. Fazio said he would be happy to do so.

Chairman Loos said the Board has done an excellent job in retaining professionals and getting them where they are. Chairman Loos recognized Senator Skip Campbell who was present and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Feldman said he wanted to single out Elizabeth Veliky for all her hard work with presentations and public outreach and all the work she's done on the transit project. Chairman Loos said the recognition was well deserved.

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Loos adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.