

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, July 10, 2008
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
New River Room West Side

ROLL CALL

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

NOT PRESENT: Gale Butler, Vice Chair

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Richard Mancuso
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	John Lafferty
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager	Jonathan Roberson
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Chuck Adams
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Mark Ellert
Neil Sterling	Patsy Mennuti
Chris Rotolo	Denny O'Shea
Alexandria Brown	Anthony Lauro
Megan Purdue	Laurie Watkins
Karl Maracotta	Brittany Wallman
John Labandera	Karen Reese
Kate Brown	

PRESIDING: Jack T. Loos, Chair

Chairman Loos called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Butler.

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. Ladd and seconded by Mr. Hooper. All board members were in favor.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow-ups from the June 12, 2008 DDA Regular Board Meeting, Approval of the Streetscape Workshop on 6/26/08, and Approval of Committee Minutes as follows: Marketing: 6/9/08, 6/16/08 Finance: 6/6/08
- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – Broward Junior Carnival, 10/4/08-10/5/08, Glen

James

- C-3) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – City Link’s Annual Beerfest, 11/28/08, Shelly Hall
- C-4) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – Museum of Art/Fort Lauderdale National Art Festival, 1/30/09-2/1/09, Anthony Lauro
- C-5) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – Blow the Whistle on Asthma, 10/3/09, Kate Brown
- C-6) Approval of the Financial Audit and Financial Statements as submitted by the DDA’s Auditor, Keefe, McCullough and Co., LLP

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Items

Captain John Labandera introduced himself and said he’s been with the police department for 20 years. He said he works in District 2 which includes all of the DDA area. Captain Labandera said he’s in charge of the day shift. He said he didn’t have specific crime statistics today but indicated there has been an increase in vehicle burglaries, many occurring in the day shift and the midnight shift. He indicated there was a couple of strong armed robberies and a reported rape. Captain Labandera said there is an action plan that is about to kick off within the next two weeks. He said that Monday through Friday between 5:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. officers sweep the DDA area everyday. He requested assistance with obtaining trespass affidavits because a lot of businesses do not have them. He said if businesses do not have an affidavit, the police department cannot force anyone to leave the premises. He said the department has the form and will bring it to business owners who request them. He said the trespass affidavits also address skateboarders. **Chairman Loos requested that Mr. Wren have staff coordinate with the property owners and the police department in assisting that trespass affidavit forms get filled out, focusing on 2nd Street.**

Captain Labandera brought up the importance of businesses having video surveillance to assist them in catching burglars and to deal with fraud issues. He said they’d like to develop a list indicating who has video surveillance. **Chairman Loos asked that DDA work with the police and Riverwalk in getting a list and expressed the concern about keeping it confidential.**

Chairman Loos acknowledged Chris Rotolo from Stiles. Ms. Rotolo said Stiles owns the 200 E. Las Olas Circle building and said it’s been great working with Detective Karl Maracotta. She said they get a lot of drunk and disorderly conduct occurring around 4 a.m. Detective Maracotta said he has handled the Riverfront area since it opened and he talked about an incident at one of the bars on 7/3/08 and how it affected the detail officer at Stiles. He said they have been seeing an increase in drivers going the wrong way on SW 1st Avenue. He said every case does not necessarily involve someone being intoxicated.

Chairman Loos brought up the entertainment ordinance and suggested it would be a good idea if the City takes a look at it again. He said he hopes the Board will be supportive in talking to the City about the ordinance and asked that Mr. Wren initiate dialogue with the City to help make things safer. ***Mr. Scherer made a motion that the City look at the 2:00 – 4:00 a.m. closing ordinance and Mr. Feldman seconded. All were in favor.***

Mr. Hooper brought up concern about the entertainment district and the necessity of having one but said he agrees that the 2-4 a.m. ordinance should be looked at. Mr. Hooper suggested there be more officers assigned in the area. Chairman Loos stressed the importance of looking at the ordinance to

help make the area better. Lighting on Riverwalk and Esplanade Park was discussed. Captain Labandera said there is a CPTED Plan and that lighting has already been addressed in the action plan and already is in the works. He said with reference to vehicle burglaries, the item most stolen are GPS systems. **Chairman Loos asked Mr. Wren to take the lead in getting with the City Commissioners and candidates running to discuss the ordinance as well.**

Patsy Mennuti mentioned that Scott Strawbridge has been organizing walks with residents addressing crime issues along the Riverwalk and that within the past two weeks, residents have taken ownership and it's been very positive.

Chairman Loos moved R-3 up on the agenda so that all Board members could be present to discuss this item.

R-3 2008/2009 DDA Budget

Mr. Wren said that at last month's meeting they announced the September budget hearing dates. Mr. Wren said the Board would need to vote on the advertised millage rate for the general and debt service funds today. He said he will also seek a vote on the budget amendment which addresses the pluses and minuses in the budget from last year. He said Mr. Adams has been assisting with the budget. Mr. Wren said that the downtown grew 7% in assessed value. He said a list of new initiatives and existing work items were distributed to the Board today and he went through the list. He added that he will also be asking for a motion authorizing him to hire a traffic planner to assist with the Streetscape initiative. Mr. Wren said they can have the same level of service next year even with a deduction in debt service of .4464 from .4800 and a reduction in the general fund of .4802 from .4933. He talked about how this affects property owners. He said the budget would also allow a contingency of \$15,000. The Board discussed what the increase to property owners would be. Mr. Adams said he feels they can cut the budget and come back to the Board in September with revisions. Mr. Wren discussed possible scenarios.

Mr. Ladd asked about repair costs for the lighting project and future anticipated costs. Mr. Wren explained that they did not finish the repairs and explained further. He said that Ms. Veliky worked very hard and got the insurance to settle on the issues they had. He said he estimates the annual maintenance will be less now. Mr. Ladd requested staff to get more definite maintenance costs for the lighting project by the next meeting.

Mr. Ladd asked about the A&S parking garage shortfall. Mr. Wren explained that \$60,000 that was anticipated for a courthouse shuttle did not happen. **Mr. Wren said he will have a budget workshop in August to discuss Board concerns further.**

Mr. Milledge confirmed that the motion to be voted on was to reduce the millage rate to .4802 and the debt service to .4464. Mr. Hooper made a motion in support of these figures and Mr. Ladd seconded. All were in favor by roll call.

Mr. Wren said he was also seeking a motion in approval of the budget amendment which is the pluses and minuses which happened in the current year's budget since they deviated from the adopted budget. ***Mr. Scherer made a motion supporting the budget amendment and Mr. Hooper seconded. Roll call was taken and all approved.***

Mr. Wren said Mr. Ladd was appointed as a committee of one and that he has been working with staff. Mr. Wren said he is looking for authorization to hire a traffic planner for expert advice to look at traffic circulating around the courthouse and judicial campus. The Board discussed this further. After discussion, **Chairman Loos suggested having another workshop to discuss specific areas with all interested Board members before hiring anyone. Mr. Wren said he will set a meeting up.** Mr. Scherer departed.

The Board talked about maintenance at the park and possible solutions to lower costs. Mr. Wren said they were able to reduce the maintenance by \$25,000. Mr. Wren brought up revenue generating possibilities such as having an annual DDA Event which was mentioned at the last Board meeting and perhaps a Blues Event. Chairman Loos asked for a breakdown of the \$80,000 related to the park. Mr. Adams went through the breakdown of park repair and maintenance fees. Mr. Ladd said he feels the cost to run the park is reasonable but that the economic model is not sustainable on the revenue side. Mr. Wren said he will continue to look at revenue possibilities.

Mr. Feldman asked about the Boat Show which brings people from the park to Bahia Mar and the Winterfest Boat Parade as possible revenue generators. **The Board talked about the possibility of having a coffee shop/sandwich shop in the park by the bridge as a potential revenue source. Mr. Wren said he'd look into this further.** Patsy Mennuti mentioned that the City's Downtown New River Master Plan includes a plan for a shop/restaurant/café under the bridge on their list and suggested the DDA find out more. **Mr. Wren said he will come back with options and said the August workshop could include discussion on this.**

R-2 Transit Update

Mr. Wren said that the Marketing Committee has been working on a video which will be shown today.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 Maroone Movies 3 Month Renewal for 6/28, 7/26, and 8/30 (Emergency Approval)

Mr. Wren said they approved a three month renewal of the Maroone Movies by emergency approval and that they've been doing more advertising about the movies.

D-2 Transit Articles

Mr. Wren said there are various articles in their backup.

D-3 Winterfest Boat Parade Update

Mr. Wren said he met with staff from Winterfest yesterday to talk about the next boat parade.

Other Business

Mr. Wren mentioned that several Board members were going to Portland this weekend and that a public notice was prepared. He added that if anyone would like an itinerary, it would provide that.

Mr. Wren circulated an article in the Rio Vista newsletter that he wrote.

Mr. Fazio asked what the status of the retirement issue was and Mr. Wren said he wants to touch base with downtown business owners for input before coming back to the Board. Chairman Loos said he

asked Mr. Wren to talk to several property owners to get input face to face. He said Mr. Wren will come back after this takes place.

The marketing video on The Wave was shown. Chairman Loos said everyone did a nice job.

Mr. Wren said that Jonathan Roberson was here today and he thanked him for all his work on the transit project. Mr. Wren said Mr. Roberson will be the point person as the DDA goes before their County Commission. Chairman Loos thanked everyone again who's been involved with the transit project and said it's a tribute to the community that everyone came together.

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Loos adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.