

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, October 16, 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 (**via conference phone**)
Peter Feldman, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Gale Butler, Vice Chair

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Gregory Salters
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Patsy Mennuti
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager	Ron Centamore
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Erika Baer
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Anthony Williams
Neil Sterling	Connie De Corneia
Doug Eagon	Michael Ferber
Phil Smelley	Sarah Deely
Jonda Joseph	Karen Reese
Richard Mancuso	Megan Purdue
Denny Oshea	Brittany Wallman

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. 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 September 11, 2008 DDA Regular Board Meeting and the minutes from the September 11th and September 25, 2008 Budget Hearings. Approval of the following Committee Minutes: Finance 9/19/08 & Marketing 9/22/08. Approval of the minutes from the 10/7/08 Streetscape Workshop.

- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – Dave Thomas Foundation Free Lunch Give-Away, 11/18/08, Tim Greiner

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Items

Chairman Loos acknowledged Captain Salters and Major Williams who were present today.

Captain Salters said he recently joined the team and has been working with everyone. He mentioned Patsy Mennuti, Parks and Recreation, and the DDA. He said they are continually working on the homeless issue. He said the park hours are changing to 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. instead of 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. He said he's been talking with Chad Blue of the DDA about the new Ambassador Program. He said there will be volunteers and it will involve the Riverwalk Area from Cheesecake Factory to the Broward Center. He said the days will be Thursday-Sunday and that training will take place. He said the program will bring more eyes and ears on the downtown.

He said the police want to be ready for events that the Riverwalk, Parks & Recreation or the DDA has. He said there will be more activity in the future such as yoga classes. He said that violent crimes in the DDA and Riverwalk have reduced but that property crimes have increased. He talked about the skywatch along Riverwalk and mentioned there are cameras in there.

Mr. Fazio asked about Nu River Landing and said about a month ago, there was a complaint about traffic going the wrong way and that Captain London assisted. He said the cooperation and follow-up were great.

R-2 Amendment on November 4, 2008 Ballot, Jonda Joseph, City Clerk & John Herbst, City Auditor

Jonda Joseph was present and said Mr. Herbst was not able to attend. Ms. Joseph said there is an election on November 4th and there will be a lot of other items on the ballot. She said there is an amendment question for the City of Fort Lauderdale to change/clarify the charter so that the City Clerk and City Auditor have the authorization to appoint and supervise their employees. She said there are 17 questions on the ballot and that this item is last. She wanted the Board to be aware of the item and asked them to please vote on the issue.

R-3 Transit

Mr. Wren said this is an update on the Wave Project. He said the 30-day forecast acts as the checks and balances of the project. He said that by the end of November the items in the current contract will be completed. He said they are on schedule and within budget. He said the next step is the FTA application and then talking with the residential and commercial community about the local assessment. Mr. Wren said they met with the State DOT Secretary, Stephanie Kopelousos this week in Tallahassee. He said she reaffirmed the \$37.5 million support. Chairman Loos said he went along for the trip and he is proud of the job the team has done with this project. He said it was reassuring that the State recognized this as a first step for the County. He said everyone has done a great job and congratulated all involved.

Chairman Loos postponed item R-4 to allow the presenters to arrive.

R-5 Downtown Riverwalk Lighting

Mr. Wren said the residential community is leading this item. He welcomed Ron Centamore. Mr. Wren said they are applying for an NCIP Grant in the amount of \$75,000 to install 15 additional light poles along the Riverwalk on the north side. Mr. Wren said he told Mr. Centamore that the DDA would lead in getting the match of \$35,000. He said that Riverwalk Trust is completely behind this project. He said that at this time, he's looking to go out and collect funds on behalf of this project. After discussion, the following motion was made: ***Mr. Hooper made a motion to support the DDA raising \$35,000 or more for the downtown Riverwalk lighting project. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

R-6 Crosswalk Brick Pavers

Mr. Wren said this item was placed on the agenda for general discussion about the crosswalk brick pavers which have become a problem with bricks popping out. He said it's been ongoing for about a year. Chairman Loos said that the DDA contributed with the City on the construction and that the City should go back to the contractor and have them fix the issues. Mr. Hooper discussed a crosswalk project that he had built in the City right of way and that the City Engineer designed it. He went into detail and the Board discussed it further. Mr. Hooper said that asphalt stamped looks better and wears better and is more maintenance free. Chairman Loos said that taxpayers should not have to be responsible. He said the City should go back to those involved and explain the issues and work on fixing them rather than spending money in tight budget times to do something else. Chairman Loos said he'd hope to have ***a motion in the form of a Resolution to contact the various entities involved in the design letting them know there is a problem and what their recommendation is on fixing it. The motion was later amended to have the Resolution include that the City was the contracting agency and used DDA funds, and as such, they should go back to the design professionals about correcting the problems. Mr. Fazio made the motion and Mr. Hooper seconded. Roll Call was taken.***

R-4 Streetscape Design Concepts

Mr. Wren said they've had several workshops on the streetscapes. He said they've conducted surveys and have preliminary design concepts for four streets in the downtown, two south of the river on 6th and 7th streets and two north of the river on 4th and 5th streets. He said there were minor extensions so new survey work is being done so they are incorporated into the final product. He said the next step is to hire someone to get preliminary engineering cost estimates.

Mr. Ladd said they are close to a consensus on a conceptual plan for 4th and 5th streets on the north side. He said on the south side on 6th & 7th streets, they are pursuing two tracks and explained further. Mr. Hugh Johnson showed pictures and renderings to the Board. He said all four streets were surveyed and that he talked to the DDA about what they wanted the streets to look like. He said each individual street was surveyed on existing conditions to project any conflicts they could run into. He talked about 4th & 5th streets and several typical profiles. He said in looking at existing conditions, they are trying to get as much parallel parking as they can. **Mr. Ladd said he'd like copies of the plans in more detail** and asked Mr. Johnson to explain how they handled back out parking and what they can and can't do now. Mr. Johnson said they continued the sidewalk across and put in a valley curb at the street. He said they can't fill in the individual parallel parking spaces. **Mr. Ladd said he'd like details for the property owners showing what improvements will be done.** Further discussion held.

Mr. Ladd said the next step in the process is to get an estimate of what preparing drawings would cost by a civil engineer or landscape architect. He said they need to do a rough cost estimate of what it will cost to do each of the streets. Mr. Ladd made the recommendation of getting a rough estimate from a local civil engineer and suggested Jay Flynn. Mr. Fazio suggested two different estimates from two different firms.

Mr. Wren said he wanted to let the board know he was finalizing an arrangement with Alan Tinter to do a conceptual traffic layout for the south area and he set up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the City being a partner on the study. He said he hopes to execute the contract in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Feldman brought up Sistrunk/N.E. 6th street. He said the City and CRA have this project on their table. He said it's important that the DDA be in sync with the City on improvements and should partner with them and the CRA. Chairman Loos asked how much is allocated for the area north of the downtown. Mr. Wren said they have \$1 million in bond funds. He said the appropriations that they've been getting should be in cash funds in a couple of months, totaling \$1.5 million for the north and \$1.5 million for the south, totaling \$2.5 million for the north.

Mr. Feldman made a motion that the DDA include 6th street in the streetscape improvement program and partner with the City for the development of those 3 major streets and stay within a \$2.5 million budget. Mr. Ladd seconded for discussion. Mr. Ladd said with reference to 6th street, they should have a presentation from the City next month on the cost, scope, funding and what they are doing or they should provide information to Mr. Wren directly so he can present it back to the Board. Mr. Hooper said he would like a status of where the City is with relevance to 6th street also.

Chairman Loos said he wants to know how many dollars will be spent and what the DDA will spend. Mr. Ladd continued discussion on the project with reference to the three streets. Chairman Loos said the overall traffic plan south of the river makes sense and expressed what his concerns are about what has been discussed today.

Mr. Fazio said at the last meeting, they asked staff to look at the historical decisions made on 3rd Avenue and Andrews and asked if there was a status. Mr. Wren said not yet but that they will have an update at the November meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wren asked if he could walk an item on and Chairman Loos said yes. He said they have an agreement from the New River Trading Post where they lease 72 spaces in the PACA Garage. He said they'd like to reduce the number of spaces from 72 to 20 due to economic conditions. ***Mr. Wren said he is seeking a motion to amend the agreement with the New River Trading Post reducing the number of spaces from 72 to 20. Mr. Feldman made the motion and Mr. Ladd seconded. Roll call was taken and all approved with Mr. Hooper abstaining from the vote.***

D-1 Broward County Housing Linkage Fee Proposal

Mr. Wren said they've been monitoring this item and they hired a consultant to look into the County's Linkage Fee. He said the County made a motion that this fee program was not to move forward due to economic conditions.

Other Business

Mr. Ladd asked about the County's potential ordinance about security cameras at commercial properties. He said this is a potentially important item. Discussion was held.

Mr. Milledge said it would be good to have a point person to help with the technical issues. He said they should identify what changes the DDA has issues with. Chairman Loos asked if Mr. Ladd would agree to be the point person. Mr. Ladd agreed. Chairman Loos asked if Denny Oshea would gather information and Mr. Oshea said he would email him. Mr. Milledge said he specifically needs to know 3 or 4 things they really want that make a difference to them.

Chairman Loos asked Mr. Wren and his staff to lend assistance where needed. He said Mr. Milledge and Mr. Sterling have done a good job trying to work with the County on this.

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Loos adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.