

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, July 8, 2010
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

BOARD PRESENT: Dennis F. O'Shea, Vice-Chairman
Gregory Durden, Secretary
Tim Petrillo, Treasurer
William R. Scherer, Board Member
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member
John Ropes, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: D. Fredrico Fazio, Chairman (participated by speaker phone)

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Rebecca Baer
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Chuck Adams
Elizabeth Van Zandt, Planning & Design Manager	Officer Dietrich
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Officer Alsamawi
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Norm Adams
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	Jennifer Lee
Mark Bode	Byron Calhoun
Mike Ferber	

PRESIDING: Dennis F. O'Shea, Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman O'Shea called the meeting to order at 8:27 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present. Chairman Fazio participated by speaker phone.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman O'Shea asked whether there were any comments or if anyone wanted to pull anything and hearing none, he asked if there was a motion approving the Consent Agenda. ***A motion was moved by Mr. Ropes and seconded by Mr. Petrillo. All Board members were in favor.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow-ups from the June 10, 2010 DDA Regular Board Meeting and Finance Committee Minutes of 5/28/10 & 6/17/10
- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-South Florida Vision Walk, 10/23/10
- C-3) Approval of Outdoor Event Application- City Link Beerfest, 12/3/10

C-4) Approval of Outdoor Event Application – Florida AIDS Walk 2011, 3/18/11-3/20/11

Vice Chairman O'Shea asked if anyone objected to deferring item R-3 to another meeting to devote extra time needed on the budget. No one objected. Since both the police and Norm Adams arrived late, they began with item R-4 and then continued on with R-1 and R-2 afterwards.

REGULAR AGENDA**R-3 Round Table Discussion on Downtown**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

R-4 DDA Office Lease

Mr. Wren gave the Board an overview on the research that staff had conducted during the last month regarding proposed office space available for the DDA. Mr. Wren indicated that a table was prepared that listed those buildings that provided a proposal, which showed the cost per square foot, annual cost, and 5-year cost and additional notes. Mr. Wren further indicated that action was not needed at this meeting, but could be deferred until the August DDA Board meeting. Mr. Wren indicated that based upon preliminary talks with the DDA's legal counsel, the bidding process would need to be formalized in order to allow Board Members to include properties that they currently own.

Mr. Scherer said staff should administer a request for proposals and focus on building image while being sensitive to cost. Chairman Fazio stated that with the current state of the economy, the Board should be careful about spending too much on new office space. Mr. Durden asked Mr. Wren if the current space was adequate and Mr. Wren answered yes. He then said that the current location is the lowest cost of all proposals and favored remaining in the current space. Mr. Petrillo indicated that he agreed with Mr. Durden, but at the same time felt that the current office conditions may not be ideal for an agency such as the DDA. Mr. Petrillo continued that if the DDA is going to serve as the concierge of Downtown then it needs to be in an office setting that showcases not only Downtown, but also the agency. **Mr. Wren stated that staff will go through an RFP process and that this item would be brought back to the Board at the August or September meeting.**

R-1 Police Report

Captain Dietrich introduced Officer Alsamawi to the Board and said he's one of the officers in the downtown. She then read a verbatim report of a recent robbery and said the people involved were taken into custody. She credited the victim's account with making it possible in apprehending the suspects so quickly.

R-2 Education Centers in Downtown

Norm Adams of Stiles presented on the recent efforts to attract and recruit education based uses to the Downtown. To date, research has occurred cataloging all the potential education centers to recruit, in addition to looking at space vacancies to locate them here.

Mr. Adams asked that the DDA lead the efforts of an educational center round table committee. He said he's already secured a meeting location and an under writer for the potential event.

Mr. Wren added that at 200 Las Olas Circle, there has been a tremendous boost in pedestrian activity due to the new educational facility located in the ground floor space of the building.

Mr. Ropes expressed his excitement to promote business and fill office space through this new focus on educational centers.

Discussion was held on a possible fall event that aims at inviting colleges from the region and market why they would benefit from locating in the downtown.

Mr. Wren was asked to set up a meeting with Norm Adams and Byron Calhoun and other entities such as Broward Workshop and come back to the Board with an update.

R-5 2010/2011 DDA Budget

The Board discussed in great detail the options available to them on setting the millage and debt service rates and the issue relating to the 2000 bond repayment. After lengthy discussion, ***Mr. Scherer made a motion to not raise taxes and still meet the debt obligations. The Board directed staff to calculate the operating and debt millage rates based on this direction. By roll call vote, the motion passed 4-3 (with Fazio, Durden and Petrillo voting NO).***

Mr. Wren was directed to look at ways of reducing the budget to meet the obligations in paying back the bond based on the voted rates above.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 News Articles

Mr. Wren had nothing to report.

Mr. Petrillo brought up the Homeless issue and said the Commission turned down the site yesterday. He said no one from the Board was present nor was the Executive Director, which he felt was not good. He said Victoria Park citizens came out in full force. As a result, the feeding at Stranahan Park will continue and he said the downtown will continue to suffer.

Mr. O'Shea said that Harry Stewart, City Attorney, mentioned a law in place which bans feeding in parks, even absent a feeding center. Mr. Stewart was directed to look into this issue further and report back to the commission. Mr. Scherer said the Board needs to be ahead of these issues and work with the appropriate parties beforehand.

As there was no other business, Vice-Chairman O'Shea adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.