

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, May 9, 2013
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

BOARD PRESENT: Tim Petrillo, Chair
John Ropes, Vice Chair
Michael Weymouth, Secretary
Dennis F. O’Shea, Treasurer
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Gregory Durden, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Anthony Fajardo
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Captain Wheeler
Elizabeth Van Zandt, Planning & Design Manager	John Newstreet (Commissioner LaMarca’s office)
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Genia Ellis
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Lisa Trafford
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	John Bertino (Commissioner Ryan’s office)
Neil Sterling	Michael Clark (Commissioner Kiar’s office)
Senator Maria Sachs	Paul Weinberg
Joshua Freeman (Senator Sach’s office)	Gavin Curtis
Peter Agnesi	Ron Centamore
Noy Hadar	Jennifer Wiczorek
Vivian Kamareddine	Courtney Merricks
Bob Dugan	Ilene Lieberman Michelson
Kona Gray	Neisen Kasdin

PRESIDING: Tim Petrillo, Chairman

Chairman Petrillo 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. Durden. Chairman Petrillo recognized Senator Maria Sachs. He also recognized John Newstreet from Commissioner LaMarca’s office, Michael Clark from Commissioner Kiar’s office and John Bertino from Commissioner Ryan’s office. Chairman Petrillo asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, a *motion was moved by Mr. O’Shea seconded by Mr. Bodenhamer approving all the items on consent. All Board members were in favor.* The following items were unanimously approved:

CONSENT AGENDA

C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow ups from the April 11, 2013 DDA Board Meeting and the

4/5, 4/24 and 5/1/13 Workshops.

- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Pops Rock Da Park Summer Family Fest, 6/8/13.
- C-3) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Miami-Fort Lauderdale Walk for Farm Animals, 10/19/13.
- C-4) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Health Food Expo, 8/31/13.
- C-5) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Humane Society Walk for the Animals, 2/28-3/1/14.
- C-6) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-14th Annual Riverwalk Run, 3/21-3/22/14.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Captain Wheeler said crime in the downtown is not too bad. He said there have been arrests made from larcenies because of video surveillance. He said there have been incidences of pickpocketing. He said with regard to homeless there are a couple regulars who they are watching and that some have been charged with felonies.

Senator Maria Sachs Introduction

Chairman Petrillo asked Senator Sachs if she'd like to say a few words. Senator Sachs said she's from District 34 and spent years in Broward County in the 80s and gave some background. She said she knows the Fort Lauderdale DDA's history and that they are strong with development. She introduced her Aide, Joshua Freeman. She said she will eventually open up an office in Broward County.

R-2 Historic Ordinance

Anthony Fajardo said the item is scheduled to go before the City Commission on May 21st on the conference agenda for discussion. He said there are no new recommendations and that they did not meet again with the working group. He went through some of the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) topics outlined on the analysis supplement, such as: power and duties, budgetary and resource impacts, definitions, etc. He said they hope to get clear direction from the Commission at the 5/21 meeting. Mr. Fazio asked if the staff recommendations had changed and Mr. Fajardo said no. Mr. Wren wanted clarification that staff is not supporting the recommendations and Mr. Fajardo said there are some they support and some they do not. Mr. Wren said that some of these can be accomplished by the existing code and Mr. Fajardo confirmed that. Mr. O'Shea asked if there was a reason why they didn't meet with the working group again and Mr. Fajardo said they changed some of the language so they could get on the same page while others they just couldn't agree on so they didn't meet again.

R-3 The Wave Streetcar

Mr. Wren said they have been doing the final due diligence regarding community outreach on the assessment. He said the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) has hired a consultant who will start designing the system. He said the project partners are in the process of evaluating the current Small Starts language and will do a mock review at some point in the near future. He said they are already looking at future extensions and putting a funding plan together. Mr. Sterling mentioned that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary stepped down and that Mayor Foxx from Charlotte, NC could be the new DOT Secretary. He said he is heavily involved in the streetcar movement. He said they've already begun reaching out to invite him to visit in the future.

R-7 Riverwalk Gateway Project, EDSA (moved up on the agenda)

Kona Gray said that EDSA has been tasked finishing the riverwalk connection at the east and connect to Las Olas Blvd. He said they are looking at connecting the Riverwalk to Stranahan House between 3rd and 5th Avenues. He talked about existing conditions. He gave some background on the Icon site. He talked about gateways and said the DDA Utility Box Wraps are great. He said they looked at precedents such as Millennium Park in Chicago and Sound Stage in Miami Beach. He showed a conceptual diagram and where the lack of connection is. He said they could see a linear park and public art and talked about possible designs for a park over the tunnel. He said they looked at both interim and future programs. Mr. Dugan discussed some conceptual sketch alternatives and said they looked at Las Olas near the Icon site and Stranahan Park. He said they then looked at Laura Ward Plaza to the 5th Avenue area. He talked about temporary and future concepts and mentioned one possibility with gates near Stranahan Park and expanding floating docks and then went on to a permanent structure connecting from Laura Ward Plaza in front of Stranahan Park and the Icon site with floating dock opportunities. He then talked about their final conceptual plan including a park over the tunnel that connects south to the River. He talked about expanding Laura Ward Plaza, construction of a sea wall and floating docks. He said this is a short term viable project with serious ideas for the future. Mr. O'Shea said he suggests they look into investigating submerged land lease difficulties now. Mr. Wren thanked EDSA and said they did a great job and said he was looking for direction today on how to proceed. He said John Milledge, Neil Sterling and himself are looking for other funding partners. **Mr. Ropes suggested exploring if the City will pay for the architectural drawings. Mr. Wren said he will inquire while they also look for other funding partners.**

Mr. Ropes made a motion to move forward on the conceptual design with EDSA to design up to Laura Ward Plaza from SE 5th Avenue and agrees with the concept of tying in a linear park as an added phase while they work on the permitting process with the City and look for funding partners. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion and by roll call, all were in favor.

Chairman Petrillo recognized former County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman.

R-6 Request for Letters of Interest-Federal Courthouse & Federal Bldg. Campus (moved up on agenda)

Mr. Wren gave some background on the federal courthouse project. He said the courthouse is in disrepair and sections are closed. He said the design is not functional. He explained that he sits on a taskforce committee with a mission to leverage existing fund sources for the federal courthouse and offices and create a new federal courthouse and building. He said they would probably have to leverage existing leases and real estate and other components to create a public/private partnership. He said they are looking to issue a letter of interest to the development community. He said Mayor Seiler is the face of the project and the DDA has been asked to be a conduit. Mrs. Lieberman gave some background and said this project will need to include parking where the courthouse is. She said there could be a trade of land but the building has mold in it, however, that a land swap would offset development costs. She said Fort Lauderdale is currently #11 to get a new courthouse and moving this forward will allow them to move up in line. Mr. O'Shea made the disclosure that Stiles will be an interested party in a P3 initiative. Discussion held on the amount of land needed. Mr. Wren said this will have to be vetted out. Mr. Wren said they would need to generate \$20-35 million dollars annually and they have already identified \$18 million. Mrs. Lieberman said parking will only serve the judges. She said security marshals are very leery about retail at the courthouse so a parking

garage could be entrepreneurial. Mr. Wren said this approach may save money for the federal government. Mrs. Lieberman said the County's finance director is also looking at types of bonds. Mr. Milledge said this would be a nonstandard RLI and the DDA is taking the lead so the Board would decide the deal. Mr. O'Shea said the State's P3 act just passed. **After discussion, the Board requested this item come back in June with Mr. Fazio and Mr. Ropes involved in the process.**

R-4 Projects Update

Mrs. Van Zandt said they are working on moving forward with the hanging baskets and with the City providing the installation.

She said she was hoping to have a recommendation on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project but the team, including Michael Weymouth as the Committee of one, are still negotiating the contract.

Mrs. Van Zandt said staff is working with the 110 Tower property owners and the County on making the experience near the courthouse more aesthetically pleasing during the County Courthouse construction. Mr. Wren explained a bit further and said the area will be under construction until 2017 and they are proposing an art wrap on the construction fence and a corridor entrance sign.

R-5 ITS Procurement Recommendations

The update was included under R-4.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 News Articles

All information was in their packages.

D-2 City of Fort Lauderdale, Our City, Our Vision 2035

No update given.

D-3 Draft Report on State of Downtown

Chadwick Blue said he did research on how Fort Lauderdale fares with other cities. He said he used the Bloomberg rating criteria and said there is no standard on what makes a great city. He said McKinney, Texas was the best city. He said he used information from the 2011 US Census, City of Fort Lauderdale GIS, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and others. He said he compiled data such as population, labor force, etc. He said on the positive, Fort Lauderdale has the lowest combined travel related taxes and is among the top 10 domestic destinations for fall 2012. He said Orbitz has Fort Lauderdale ranked the 3rd most affordable 2013 summer destination and went through more highlights. He said Fort Lauderdale was ranked 7th for economic potential on a list of Top 10 Small American Cities of the Future. He said Fort Lauderdale placed last among Florida cities in Forbes' 2012 "Best Places for Business and Careers." He said Fort Lauderdale is the 4th worse city for job seekers in 2011 and the number one most dangerous city in America for driving. He talked about Kelly Smallridge, CEO of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County who prepared a letter to 30 randomly selected Manhattan-based hedge funds. He said the outcome was that quality education is at the top of the list, along with Class A office space. Chairman Petrillo said it is interesting to see everyone's perception and changes need to be made such as crime and education and that this was a great tool and he'd like to read it since they just received it. Mr. Blue added that he did a Strength Weakness Opportunities Threat (SWOT) analysis at the end of the report. **Mr.**

Wren said he'd bring this item back in June. Dev Motwani said his brother Nitin is on the Miami DDA and chairs the economic development and marketing committees. He said he will be traveling north to New York City to meet with decision makers at 100 hedge funds to talk about why they should move to Miami. He said many of the funds are interested in coming to Florida because of the favorable tax situation. He said the Miami DDA will be involved also. **He said he would put Mr. Wren in touch with him.** He also mentioned he will be bringing a non-profit technology incubator company to downtown and will give them free space and would love to work with the DDA on this.

Senator Sachs said funding education is a State issue. She said she studied California technology companies and found out they were started by students. She said the numbers for funding for Broward State Colleges is one of the lowest so she increased the funding and now they are in the top 5 in the State. She said education is a priority of hers and she will continue to advocate for education funding.

As there was no other business, Chairman Petrillo adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.