

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, June 12, 2014
110 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

BOARD PRESENT: John Ropes, Chair
Michael Weymouth, Vice-Chair
Dennis F. O'Shea, Secretary
Tim Petrillo, Treasurer
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
Gregory Durden, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Ron Centamore
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Russ Davis
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Mark Mattern
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Jim Ellis
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	Megan Purdue
Peter Agnesi	Dave Coddington
Tom Meyer	Willie Perez
John Bertino	Shaol Maouda
Cindy Calvert	Officer Galt

PRESIDING: John Ropes, Chair

Chairman Ropes called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Bodenhamer. Chairman Ropes asked if anyone had any questions regarding the consent agenda and Mr. Weymouth said he had some questions about the audit so it was pulled for discussion. A ***motion was moved by Mr. O'Shea and seconded by Mr. Durden approving the minutes.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

CONSENT AGENDA

C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow ups from the May 8, 2014 DDA Board Meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chairman Ropes recognized John Bertino who was present.

R-1 Police Report

Officer Galt said there has been an 8% reduction in crime in the DDA area from April to May. He said vehicle burglaries were down and there were no auto thefts in May in the DDA area. He said

larcenies were up at nightclubs and bars. Officer Galt said the top four locations for crime are the bus terminal, Publix, 7-eleven and Riverfront. He said the entire City is down 7% this month in crime.

C-2 Approval of the Financial Audit and Financial Statements as submitted by the DDA's Auditor, Keefe McCullough & Co., LLP (pulled from Consent)

Mr. Weymouth asked a couple questions about the audit and then expressed concern as to why the audit is approved 8 months after the fiscal year ends and wondered if this is the normal timeframe. Ms. Calvert said they could move the date up if the Board would like. Mr. Wren added that the DDA complies with all regulatory guidelines. Ms. Calvert thanked Marti Brown, Chuck Adams and Chris Wren for all their help during audit season. ***A motion was moved by Mr. Weymouth approving the audit and financial statements and was seconded by Mr. Durden. All Board members were in favor.*** Chairman Ropes indicated he was moving R-5 up on the agenda.

R-5 Contract Approval for Federal Courthouse Feasibility Study

Mr. Wren indicated that Susan Lent was participating by phone. He said they want to hire an expert into doing a PPP, rebuilding the old courthouse for safety concerns and other issues and specifically want to keep it downtown. He said over 43% of businesses have some reliance on the courthouse system. He said the government has indicated they won't have any funds to rebuild for over 20 years. He said Michael Weymouth is the committee of one and Susan Lent is the lawyer/lobbyist working with the group and she has coordinated the offices of Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Senator Nelson and Congresswoman Frankel. He said Ms. Lent leads in putting together the technical aspects of the scope. He said the County and City have agreed to fund up to \$40,000 each. He said through a movement the DDA was involved in years ago with a nonprofit group in an effort to save the courthouse, they have up to \$20,000 available. He said they are looking to hire KPMG to do the study under the guidance of the City, County and everyone involved. Mr. Wren said he's looking for a motion to authorize a contract which legal counsel has approved allowing him to negotiate. He said the cost is around \$100,000 now but they are looking to reduce that. Mr. Milledge said this would be a motion "not to exceed" a certain amount. Discussion was held about the scope and reducing it. ***Mr. Wren said to let him, Mr. Weymouth and General Counsel finish negotiating the final scope and then he will advertise a special meeting where he will invite all the interested Board members to ratify the contract and move forward. A motion was moved by Mr. O'Shea and seconded by Mr. Durden authorizing same. All Board members were in favor.*** Susan Lent gave a verbal update of what's been happening in Washington D.C. with regard to PPP's.

R-3 DDA 2014/2015 Budget Schedule

Mr. Wren said the memo explains he's seeking a motion in support of the budget hearing dates of 9/4 and 9/11. Mr. Milledge said the City asked the DDA to advance the hearing schedule ahead of theirs. ***Mr. Durden made a motion of the budget hearing dates of 9/4/14 at 4:00 p.m. for the regular meeting and 5:01 p.m. for the 1st budget hearing and 9/11/14 at 5:01 for the final budget hearing. Mr. Petrillo seconded. All were in favor.***

R-2 Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Update

Mr. Coddington went through some recent awards the Alliance received with Top 10 criteria they've met. He said there have been 5,046 jobs retained in the first six months of the year with most due to the American Express deal. He said there has been \$220 million in capital investment in the community for the first six months. He said the unemployment rate is 5%. Mr. Coddington said from 2007-2013, there have been 13,591 direct jobs attracted and retained in the area. He said there has

been \$6.5 billion in annual economic impact. He discussed the Port Everglades Advocacy Team and explained they are focusing on getting the business community behind the activity. He said their annual meeting will be October 23rd where the keynote speaker will be Jim Clifton. Mr. Petrillo asked if Mr. Coddington could define the criteria the Top 10 was measured on and Mr. Coddington said he can find out but that it was done by Southern Business and Development Magazine. Discussion was held about the School Board's efforts to raise bond monies. Mr. Petrillo said they need to get the message out about the issue and about community education as a whole. Mr. Coddington said the two issues they have are the perception of the school system and the workforce. Discussion turned to housing in comparison to other areas. **Chairman Ropes asked that at the next meeting, a presentation be coordinated on the school message.**

R-4 Contract Approval on Security Ambassador Program

Mr. Wren said the program he would like to use for the downtown is modeled after the West Palm one and that he is poised to hire PSC and that Willie Perez is here to present. Mr. Wren said this is a partnership with the City and that he's met with general counsel about the financial contract. He said Tim Petrillo has been the Committee of one and he wanted to know if the Board wanted to authorize them to move forward once the contract is finalized or whether they prefer a workshop first.

Mr. Perez said he has been running the program for 13 years at City Place. He said they focus on quality of life issues which are very important. He said the company was founded in 1985 and they have over 6,000 employees. He said Fort Lauderdale faces the same issues that West Palm does such as homeless, communication and quality of life concerns. He talked about some of the issues over the years and how they've dealt with it and how it would work in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Perez said he has looked at the downtown area and is recommending 3 shifts and went through the various hours he's proposing. He said he usually staffs 4-5 guys for coverage with patrol vehicles at night. He said he wants the guys to be approachable. He said he will develop a web base so they can get to know the individuals in the area and the reoccurring issues and history. Mr. Wren said the contract would mirror West Palm Beach's and would be a pilot program coordinated with the Police. He said both the Chief and Assistant Chief are behind the program and said he'd like to move forward on a trial basis. Mr. Ellis added that it would be a partnership with the City, Police, Homeowner Associations, CRA and DDA. He said they would start off with 24/7 coverage and then massage the program. He said the security team will report back to Mr. Petrillo. He said as far as funding, the City is on board, the CRA is aware of what is happening and the Flagler Village entertainment district will be pitching in. Mr. Petrillo explained that even though they do not have enough resources this program will get them once it is in place and succeeding. He said the beach is interested in the program but they have to take a first step. He said this will be an economic benefit to the downtown just like the Wave. Mr. Wren said he will not put them in liability and that they are okay for now until the end of September. He said he will be asking for a millage increase and recommends this program is month to month. He said they will enforce the hot spots and will get other partners and funding. ***A motion was moved by Mr. Durden with Mr. O'Shea seconding to have Mr. Petrillo, Mr. Wren and Mr. Milledge negotiate a month to month agreement to move forward with the pilot program at a monthly fee of approximately \$8,333 and not exceeding \$100,000 annually. Additionally, the contract will address how monies from the City and other partners will allow increased services. By roll call, all approved.*** The Board discussed how soon the other funding would begin. Mr. Wren said it would be a contract with the DDA and PSC and then others. He said Flagler Village has said they are ready as well as the Himmarshee merchants to assist in funding. He said the City will have the funds October 1st. Mr. Maouda, the company's Vice President, briefly discussed the insurance liability.

R-6 The Wave Streetcar

No formal update was given.

R-7 Projects Update

Mr. Wren talked about the canopy lighting project on 2nd Street from 2nd Avenue to 3rd Avenue. He said they can either move forward with the Board's permission with the project which will be under \$10,000 or bring this back next month. He said he would use one time undesignated capital funds and that he and Mr. Petrillo can final the negotiations if the Board would like them to and move forward. He said it's a very good pilot project. **Mr. Petrillo said he'd like Mr. Wren to go through it in more detail at the Board's next one on one's and put it on the next agenda.** Mr. O'Shea showed interest in expanding it.

Ms. Ellis gave an update on the Riverwalk Connection project saying the easements will be going through the City for final signature and the surveys are complete. She said the permitting is what will take time and the construction is very short. She anticipates next year as the completion date.

R-8 Agreement with SFRTA and DDA

Mr. Wren explained what the agreement is for, indicating it allows the DDA to recover costs and other details. *A motion was moved by Mr. Durden and seconded by Mr. O'Shea approving the agreement. All Board members were in favor.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**D-1 News Articles**

All information was in their packages.

As there was no other business, Chairman Ropes adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.