

Board Budget Special Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority of Fort Lauderdale
Monday, June 30, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m.
DDA Office, 305 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 301, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

BOARD PRESENT: John Ropes, Chair
Michael Weymouth, Vice Chair
Denny O'Shea, Secretary
Tim Petrillo, Treasurer
Greg Durden, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
Bill Bodenhamer, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel
Chris Wren, Executive Director
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner
Chuck Adams, Consulting Budget & Finance Advisor

Chairman Ropes called the special meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Roll call was taken. Mr. Wren said this is the first budget meeting and the Board will vote in July on the proposed millage rates. He said the final numbers came in on Friday indicating the taxable value went up 4.16%. He said there will be \$130,000 in new value which is new construction or additions to the tax rolls. He announced that Kate Sheffield will be departing in July to pursue other career options in California.

He said some issues he wanted to discuss were the Security Ambassador Program, staff compensation and operational needs. He said there are operational needs such as a new staff person. He said the DDA had Elizabeth depart last year and he's working on a transition plan with Kate going. He said he believes they would be looking at approximately \$100,000 for a new position as well as legal needs in the same amount. Mr. Durden said he wanted to thank Mr. Milledge for all his efforts. Mr. Milledge discussed a few of the projects that involve a lot of his time and assured the Board he only bills for his actual time and said he is always looking for funding sources. He briefly discussed a penny tax initiative for transit in which he is trying to make sure the DDA sits in on. Mr. Ropes brought up federal funds that could be available for the security program.

Discussion turned to staff compensation and Mr. Wren said Mr. Adams does evaluations routinely comparing the DDA's salary program with the City's and indicated the DDA is paying below the City's.

Mr. Milledge then said the Board might want to make decisions on the park and what they'd like to do there in the future such as redevelopment options. Mr. Wren said he suggests that the Board doesn't limit what they consider for the park when looking at a revenue stream. Mr. Wren briefly discussed this issue said he'd like the Board's direction. Some members felt the park should stay green while others were open to discussion. Mr. Wren said they do not have to make any definite decisions today as there will be another workshop before the budget adoption in September.

The Board said they wanted to know the benefits of expanding the DDA boundaries and Mr. Wren said he would coordinate with the Property Appraiser's office to get some analysis done expanding

north, south and down 17th Street and then bring that information back to the Board. Chairman Ropes then said they are looking at three issues: 1) a possible millage rate increase 2) looking at the organization and what the focus is and 3) finding additional revenue such as grants.

Mr. Wren said he and Mr. Milledge will finalize the Security Ambassador contract and he would like to start the pilot program with outdoor dining areas.

Mr. Weymouth said he'd like to include in the property appraiser's analysis the numbers for multi-family so the Board can see what the economic impact would be for bringing in apartments. He said he'd like to examine WPB and Miami's numbers also. Mr. Petrillo said they should include the residents in the DDA and know the risks and rewards of doing so. Mr. Wren said he and Mr. Milledge will do the pros and cons.

Mr. Wren said he'd like to do a lighting project in the Himmarshee District on 2nd Street from the railroad tracks to 3rd, essentially one block and explained. ***Mr. O'Shea made a motion in support of moving forward on the proposal in the amount of \$10,469 and also including the permit costs involved outside of that amount. Mr. Durden seconded the motion with Mr. Petrillo abstaining from the vote.***

As there was no further discussion, the special meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.