

Regular Meeting of the  
Downtown Development Authority  
Thursday, July 10, 2014  
110 SE 6<sup>th</sup> 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  
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member (by speaker phone)  
Gregory Durden, Board Member

**NOT PRESENT:** Tim Petrillo, Treasurer  
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Garry Johnson, Legal Counsel	Superintendent Runcie
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Dana Pollitt
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Mark Mattern
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Laura Gambino
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	Marsha Ellison
Chuck Adams	Willowstine Lawson
John Bertino	Dylan Lagi
Genia Ellis	Dev Motwani
Cristina Hudson	Thomas Meyer
Jody Weymouth	
Jaclyn Milford	
Sheela Van Hoose	

**PRESIDING:** John Ropes, Chair

Chairman Ropes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Petrillo and Mr. Bodenhamer. Chairman Ropes recognized Superintendent Runcie, John Bertino, Dr. Meyer and Officer Weymouth. Chairman Ropes asked if anyone had any questions regarding the consent agenda and hearing none, a ***motion was moved by Mr. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. O'Shea approving the items on consent.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow ups from the June 12, 2014 DDA Board Meeting and the Special Budget Meeting on 6/30/14
- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Ft. Lauderdale Jingle Bell Jog, 12/21/14
- C-3) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-15<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverwalk Run, 4/10-4/11/15
- C-4) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis, 4/17-4/18/15

## C-5) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-The Color Run, 5/1-5/2/15

**REGULAR AGENDA****R-1 Police Report**

Officer Weymouth said in the month of June, there was one battery in the evening in the 2nd Street area. She said there were also 3 vehicle burglaries, 10 larcenies and 2 robberies, one involving snatching of a wallet outside a bar. She said the trend they are seeing is larcenies on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street involving cell phones. She said Detective Shotwell is recovering well after the recent incident at Maguire's.

**R-2 School Board Presentation**

Mr. Runcie said on 6/9 the School Board voted to put an \$800 million bond issue on the November ballot. He said the criteria for investing used is for safety, music and arts, athletics, school renovations and technology. Mr. Runcie gave some background on his family and said he is the first in his family to graduate high school and college and said he went to Harvard. He said the mission is to educate the students. Mr. Runcie said they have 13 high schools which are the best in the State and Nation. He said 92% of high schools received an A or B rating from the State. He said last year they closed a district office in Sunrise and took that lease money and reinvested it in the classrooms. He said healthcare costs \$200 million and they've redesigned the plan which resulted in \$20 million in savings for the district which they used to improve transportation. He said the total operating monies that went back into the classrooms is \$35 million. Mr. Runcie said Broward County Public Schools has the lowest in the State for administrative costs. He said they asked the legislature to restore the millage rate and explained. Mr. Runcie said there has been a \$1.8 billion loss of capital funding since 2008. He said capital project improvements that are needed include technology, indoor air quality, music, athletics, and renovations of school buildings. He said there are schools which have flooding and ceiling tile damage and classrooms without air conditioning. He said 60% of computers are five years or older and out of warranty so technology updates are needed. Mr. Runcie then spoke about Fort Lauderdale High School and said in the past three years, there has been \$50 million worth of investment in magnet programs such as pre-law and public affairs. He said they need a strong education system and they need to invest in students' futures. Discussion then took place about teacher tenure. He said they need to focus on the quality of the teachers. Mr. Durden asked how the DDA could help. Mr. Runcie said they've held 20 plus town hall meetings, facilities reforms, legislative efforts, operational efficiencies, academic progress and innovation and advocacy initiatives. He said he is asking municipalities to support the effort by Resolution and that they are breaking down data by municipality to see the direct affects. He said the Board could help in three ways: passing a Resolution in support, speaking opportunities to share the information and by getting involved in the external campaign where they are putting together poling and funding resources. Mr. Runcie then said if you added in the bond and compared the tax amounts homeowners paid in 2007 compared to today it would still be 26% less. ***Mr. Durden made a motion in support of a Resolution showing support for the School Board's efforts. Mr. O'Shea seconded and all were in favor.*** Chairman Ropes recognized Willowstine Lawson of Senator Nelson's office.

**R-6 All America City Awards (moved up on agenda)**

Laura Gambino said she wanted to thank the DDA and individuals who contributed. She said they pulled together 43 different delegates and went to Denver where the City of Fort Lauderdale received the All America City Award. She said their theme was Healthy Community. She then spoke about the

business partnership with Dillard Elementary School and what's happening there. She thanked those involved and presented awards to Mr. Durden and Mr. Ropes. She said she previously gave Mr. Wren and Mr. Weymouth theirs and said she also had awards for Mr. Milledge and Mr. Petrillo who were not present today. Mr. Wren said he has the award but wanted more Board attendance to show everyone and that there is a CD which is amazing which has an overview of the community we live in.

### **R-3 DDA 2014/2015 Budget (adoption of proposed millage rates)**

Mr. Wren said he would be looking for a motion in support of the proposed millage rates so they can be advertised. He said he is proposing the maximum to initiate the Security Ambassador Program which he believes will still have a kickoff later in the month. **Mr. Wren said he wanted to hold a budget workshop to discuss budget line items, capital projects and staffing issues and compensation and wanted direction on whether the Board wanted one or two workshops. The Board decided on two.** Mr. Wren announced that Kate Sheffield will be leaving the DDA to relocate to California to pursue other ventures. *A motion was moved by Mr. Weymouth in support of an Operating millage rate of 0.5882 and a Voted Debt rate of 0.5366. Mr. Durden seconded and by roll call all approved.*

### **R-4 The Wave Streetcar & R-5 Projects Update**

Wave: Mr. Wren said the City and RTA are negotiating over the proposed new maintenance and storage facility on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Andrews. He touched upon the SIB Loan and what it means, saying it will advance monies for transit projects. He said the loan goes to 2037 but the DDA sunsets in 2030. He said there is a special commission meeting today to talk about this item. He said he believes there won't be any substantial change but the City needs to be the backup. He said he and legal counsel have had discussions on a charter change where they would extend the life of the DDA to 2037.

Projects: Mr. Wren said everyone has no doubt seen the colorful intersections and more are coming along Las Olas.

He said they are looking at doing more utility box wraps and have ordered additional flower baskets.

He said they will be doing a pilot program of entertainment lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue over the street.

He said they are also moving along with the Security Ambassador Program.

Mr. Wren said he, Mr. Blue and Mr. Weymouth went out to California to talk to Greg Curtin about the proposed ITS project. He said he was further impressed after seeing what's been done in Santa Monica. He said it will be something utilitarian as much as marketing and will market the downtown area. He talked about the project in more detail saying they will have flat screens and maybe iconic kiosks. He said they do not want new infrastructure they need to maintain.

Mr. O'Shea asked about the maintenance and storage facility and how the change affects the schedule and how the location will be. Mr. Wren said it does affect the schedule and explained further.

Mr. Wren said the Federal Courthouse remains an exciting priority project. He said yesterday Ian

Rayder from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's office indicated it is looking promising for pilot projects next year. They are waiting on the feasibility study the DDA is doing with KPMG which should take about 60 days. After the study is complete he said GSA and OMB will look at it and see if it's a good project and then there will be legislative changes and advertising.

### **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 9:35 a.m.