

**Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia was held on June 11, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the DDA office located at 936 Broad Street, Suite 107. Those members in attendance were Commissioner Fennoy, David Hutchison, Rick Keuroglan, Natalie McLeod, Cameron Nixon, Scylance Scott, Jr., Executive Director Margaret Woodard, and Legal Counsel Byrd Warlick. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, Jack Wilde of Augusta Regional Collaboration, Camille Price of Augusta Tomorrow, Mike Clarke of Family Y, Barry White of the Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Jenna Martin of *The Augusta Chronicle*.

Mr. Nixon called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

In the absence of Mr. Hadden, Mr. Nixon presented for approval the previous meeting minutes from May 14, 2015. With no additions or corrections, Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Scott made the motion. Mr. Hutchison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Treasurer's Report, Ms. McLeod presented the financials for May 2015.

The balance sheet as of May 31 and both Profit & Loss Performance Reports for DDA operating and consolidated for May which includes January – May were reviewed. The largest expense paid in the amount of \$15,000.00 in May was the third installment for retail recruitment.

Mr. Nixon asked the board if there were any questions and hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as information. Mr. Keuroglan made the motion. Commissioner Fennoy seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if any further discussion. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The May 2015 financial reports are in board books.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Woodard updated the board on the following:

**Active Economic Development Projects**  
**Georgia Cities Foundation (GCF) Loans**

- The loan for 912 Ellis Street, which was approved by the board last month, has been submitted to GCF. The 19 apartments are in the process of being completed with a July grand opening.

After submission of this loan, we have been placed on hold until previous loans have been paid back as we have reached our maximum.

## **Other**

- The grand opening for 106 apartments at CanalSide is scheduled for June.

## **Pilot SPLOST Project/Art the Box (Electrical Signal Art Project)**

- The project was completed in May.
- Ms. Woodard and Commissioner Fennoy took a trolley tour with other city officials to view the completed 23 boxes on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- An unveiling ceremony was also held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 600 Broad Street.

## **SPLOST VI Project/Riverwalk**

- The board approved a contract last month with Cooper Carry.
- Cooper Carry will provide planning and design services to develop a master plan with associated costs for the Riverwalk.
- Kick-off meeting to be held June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. with Cooper Carry, city department heads and key partners to get plan underway.
- Possible report at next board meeting.
- Ms. Woodard will follow-up with Cooper Carry to determine timeline.

## **Downtown Programs**

### **Retail Strategy - Discovery Plaza**

- We have received plans for Discovery Plaza and we are working with Retail Strategies on the retail component.
- There is approximately 15,000 square feet on the first floor for potential restaurants. Information has been forwarded to Retail Strategies and we have also reached out to local restaurants to see if a second location in close proximity would work for them.

### **Housing Demand Feasibility Study - Danter Company**

- We are currently in the process of raising \$8,500 from private partners with \$2,000 raised to-date.

## **Grant Projects**

### **James Brown Boulevard Phase I**

- Construction is 80 percent completed with an anticipated completion date of mid-July.

### **James Brown Boulevard Phase II**

- Awaiting PI number

### **James Brown Boulevard Phase III**

- Awaiting contract from GDOT

Ms. Woodard will follow up regarding Georgia One Fund money to see if funds can be used for streetscapes and application process.

## Other

- A meeting has been scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> with city IT Department to look at DDA website overhaul to include retail reports. An update will be given at the August board meeting.

Ms. Woodard attended the Albany trip with Commissioner Williams and Deputy City Administrator Rhinehart to view the Ray Charles statue and other attractions that were a part of Albany's 20-year plan for downtown. Attractions were funded by SPLOST and the community. Deputy City Administrator Rhinehart is presenting results to the Economic Development Committee on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

With no questions for Ms. Woodard the board accepted the Director's Report as information.

A complete copy of the Director's Report is in board books.

Under New Business, Mr. Nixon presented for discussion and approval a letter of support for the Coliseum Authority for a new arena.

The Coliseum Authority has asked the DDA for a letter of support for a new arena to be located in the downtown footprint. They presented to us last month the results of the AECOM Feasibility Study in regards to the arena.

The board reviewed a letter crafted by Ms. Woodard and DDA Chairman Nixon. The board had no additions to be included in the letter nor corrections.

Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to approve the letter of support for a new arena in the downtown footprint. Mr. Scott made the motion. Mr. Keuroglan seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon asked if any further discussion. Hearing none all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The board will not have a July board meeting. A special called meeting will be held if there is pressing business to discuss.

The next item on the agenda was closed session. The reason for closing the meeting was to discuss the updates regarding the real estate acquisition from the previous closed session meeting on May 14, 2015. Mr. Nixon asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Fennoy made the motion. Mr. Keuroglan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The board went into closed session at 8:50 a.m.

The board came out of closed session at 9:07 a.m. and with no further business to discuss Mr. Nixon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Nixon, Chairman