

**Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2008**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was held October 9, 2008 at 8:30 am at the DDA offices located at 416 8th Street. Those members in attendance were Paul King, Steven Kendrick, Phil Wahl, Dr. James Carter, Commissioner J. R. Hatney, Julian Roberts, Cassandra Brinson, Cameron Nixon, Mark Bowling, Legal Counsel Byrd Warlick and Executive Director Margaret Woodard. Guests and observers included DDA Office Manager Roxanne Walls, CADI Project Manager Jessica Fuselier, Camille Price of Augusta Tomorrow, Lara Plocha of d(a)², Barry White of the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dr. Kelly McKnight and Charlotte Ginn both of Bible Deliverance Temple, and Adelle Dennis wife of DDA member Paul King.

Mr. Kendrick called the meeting to order at 8:32 am and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Kendrick recognized outgoing board members Mr. Wahl and Dr. Carter and presented them with awards for their outstanding board service. Mr. Wahl commended the board for doing a fantastic job. Dr. Carter called the group a “sterling group of individuals.”

Mr. Kendrick introduced the two new board members Mr. Bowling and Mr. Nixon. Mr. Bowling is a small business owner of a medical management firm and is a downtown property owner. Mr. Nixon is employed by First Bank and is a member of St. Paul’s Church.

Mr. Julian Roberts presented the previous meeting minutes along with Old Business, improper procedure/September meeting. After the September meeting, he realized that an error was made in the procedures during that meeting. As secretary Mr. Roberts felt it his responsibility to point that out for the record. There was a motion on the table, then a substitute motion on the floor, discussion, and then a call the question was made. As the minutes reflect in the heat of discussion we did not actually vote on the call the question. Call the question is actually under “Robert’s Rules of Order” and is an irrefutable motion that requires a 2/3 majority. The purpose of calling the question is to end discussion. He feels it is an obligation in moving forward that the board follow these rules.

Mr. Roberts gave everyone a moment to review previous meeting minutes from September 11, 2008. Mr. King had revisions he would like made to the previous meeting minutes and they were duly noted.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Hatney to accept the previous meeting minutes with corrections. Ms. Brinson made a second to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Treasurer's Report, Ms. Woodard stated that income for the month included our city funding and monthly allotment for the CADI Program.

Mr. Kendrick asked Ms. Woodard to explain CADI to the new members. Ms. Woodard explained that the Clean Augusta Downtown Initiative passed last June. It started up in March of this year and is comprised of a separate board of 16 property owners within the district. The DDA has an agreement with CADI to operate the program and execute the contract with Service Group, Inc. for \$25,000 annually. Ms. Woodard introduced Mrs. Jessica Fuselier, the CADI Project Manager. Mrs. Fuselier also runs the Saturday Market.

The Balance Sheet reflects Capitol City money market in the amount of \$90,164.62; Georgia Bank & Trust CD in the amount of \$131,409.90; Bank of America checking in the amount of \$168,833.85 and Bank of America savings in the amount of \$15,686.33 for a total of \$406,094.70. Bank of America revoked the DDA credit card without notifying the DDA even though there is money in the bank and the bills were paid on time. It was a credit decision. The DDA will be changing banks.

Ms. Woodard explained that we have not received the additional \$50,000.00 in city funding approved for 2008 and salary reimbursements have not been made to the city for 2007. The Saturday Market checking/savings balance is \$12,646.41.

Ms. Woodard asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as information. Commissioner Hatney made the motion. Mr. King made the second motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Chairman's Report, Mr. Kendrick stated the Chamber of Commerce's first legislative conference will be held on October 14 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm at Augusta Technical College. Several groups will be speaking to our legislative delegation regarding upcoming concerns and issues. Mr. Kendrick suggested defining a project and asking the legislature for \$10,000 or \$20,000 in appropriation funds for a downtown project. Ms. Woodard stated support of the Urban Redevelopment Law would benefit downtown Augusta as well. Ms. Woodard will prepare the white papers from the DDA to the delegation.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Woodard stated she met with Mr. Noble Benefield, the new owner of the Woolworth Bldg. and will apply for a Georgia Cities Loan on his behalf. The project will have 17 condominiums and 22,000 sf of retail. Mr. Kitchen has a potential prospect for the Water Place office building and the proposed hotel at the Commons franchise paperwork has been submitted. There are a few title issues to work out with the current owners.

This past month two ribbon cuttings were held for the Window Gallery and R.W. Allen Construction. Fat Man's has opened up at Fort Discovery. Their grand opening will be November 7th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

The Ellis Street streetscape contract has been signed with Horizon Construction and work will commence this month.

The Fall Market is October 18th. Mrs. Fuselier has a great day planned from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm on the 8th Street bulkhead. Fundraising is underway for 2009.

The Historic Preservation Grant RFPs for the Harrisburg Survey were received last Friday, October 3rd.

In order to promote an overnight stay this year for Christmas Light Up we have added a Friday night event "Twas the Night Before". We will partner with South Carolina to turn on the lights on the 5th to the 13th Street bridges and a lighted boat parade will be held at 6:30 pm. The Christmas Light Up event will take place on December 6th with the holiday market, the Miss Augusta parade and family fun at the Commons. The Mayor will light-up the city at 6:20 pm and will be televised along with fireworks.

The trolley steering committee met on September 17th. The proposed route that the committee was looking at was going down Broad Street and across the 13th Street Bridge. Six members of the steering committee are going to Little Rock on November 11th and 12th to gather information in regards to their trolley system. There will be one more steering meeting after the trip and then a public meeting will be held.

The DDA office will be moving next week to the new location.

Mr. Kendrick encouraged everyone to engage with the CADI. He commended Ms. Woodard on selecting Mrs. Fuselier for the CADI position.

CADI statistics from March 1st were impressive. There were 100 outreach referrals, pedestrian assistance 146 times, and 36,840 lbs of litter removal. Infrastructure reporting is underway as well as contract work and segway advertising.

Ms. Woodard introduced Dr. Kelly McKnight who will be chairman of the Harrisburg Initiative. She also introduced Ms. Charlotte Ginn who works with Dr. McKnight.

Mr. Bowling asked about the pilot lighting project. Ms. Woodard explained that we have allocated \$100,000.00 in SPLOST money to do the 900 block on Broad Street with new double headed fixtures that are proposed for the San Sebastian Parkway.

Mr. King stated that several of the new planters on Broad Street have not been planted or maintained, and have become trash collectors. If they are not going to be maintained, they need to be removed.

Mrs. Lara Plocha stated the planters were paid for by private money. She is trying to find out who paid for the ones on the 900 block so they can be completed.

Mr. Kendrick suggested the DDA Design Committee review the planters along with the proposed sidewalk standards. Ms. Woodard will schedule a design committee meeting and include Mr. Dennis Stroud and Mr. George Patty.

Ms. Woodard asked for a motion to accept the Director's Report as information. Commissioner Hatney made the motion. Mr. Roberts made a second to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mr. Kendrick asked for a motion to appoint new board member Cameron Nixon as Treasurer. Commissioner Hatney made the motion. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kendrick announced the next DDA board meeting is being moved to November 20 due to the trolley trip to Arkansas.

With no further business, Mr. Kendrick asked for motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roberts made the motion. Mr. King made a second to the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julian Roberts, Secretary