
MINUTES
Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 8:30 AM

Florida Community Design Center
300 East University Avenue
1st Floor Suite 110

A. ROLL CALL

Member Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:28 am. Members Beeler, Castine, Giddings, McGurn, Reeves and Williams were present. Kelly Huard, Matt Dubé, Anthon Lyons and Stephanie Seawright represented Staff.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Member McGurn, seconded by Member Castine.

Recommendation: Adopt the Agenda as presented.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Member Castine, seconded by Member McGurn.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes for October 31, 2007 as presented.

D. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Lt. Wayne Ash, Lt. Buddy Rowe and Sergeant Franklin of Gainesville Police Department addressed the issue of dumping and the process that is in place.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chair's Report – None

2. Staff Report – Information Items

- Gainesville Responsible Hospitality Partnership -The GRHP currently has thirty-two (32) bar/restaurant members.
- University Avenue Interim Improvements – The maintenance agreement is still in progress. The equipment order is moving forward and additional coordination is being made with the Public Works Department. The order has not yet been placed and is pending finalization of purchasing documents. The equipment consists of the following items: DRAB - 5 benches, 2 planters, 21 trash receptacles, 2 receptacle covers, and 2 receptacle liners.
- GRU Master Plan – Subsequent to the August 22nd public meeting, City, CRA, and GRU officials recognized that this project needed additional attention and retooling. As result, they have decided to pursue the Master Plan with the help of a different consulting team. Staff will keep DRAB abreast of progress as a new consultant is hired and the project moves forward.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. CRA Streetscape Design and Technical Standards Revisions

The Board received the update and recommendations of the Staff.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Member McGurn, seconded by Member Castine.

Recommendation: Approve changes for submittal to the consultant, Bellomo-Herbert; and request that CRA request the City Commission to refer the CRA Streetscape Design and Technical Standards to the Gainesville Plan Board for incorporation into the Gainesville Land Development Code by ordinance of the City of Gainesville.

2. Porter's Neighborhood Improvements

The Board received the update by Staff. Members discussed the overall improvements including the Porter's fence and Lynch Park.

H. NEW BUSINESS

2007 Downtown Existing Commercial Building Façade Grant Program

Staff evaluation of the four applications ranked the projects in the following order: #1) Fillie – 41 points, #2) Yoh – 31 points, #3) Nichtberger – 28 points, and #4) Emiliano’s – 16 points. The overall budget for the Downtown façade grant program is \$20,000, and Staff aimed to work within this budget to fund all four projects, as all of the applications support Downtown businesses and beautification. Based on the merits of each project as well as Façade Grant budget considerations, Staff recommends the following awards: \$9,500 to the Fillie project (this building contains multiple storefronts and qualifies for maximum program funding levels); \$5,000 grant to the Yoh building; \$4500 to the Nichtberger building; and \$1000 to the Emiliano’s project.

After much discussion the members made changes to the staff awards. They were as follows: \$9,000 to the Fillie project; \$8,000 to the Yoh building; \$2,000 to the Nichtenberg building; and \$1,000 to the Emiliano’s project.

The Board unanimously approved the motion made by Member McGurn, seconded by Member Beeler.

Recommendation: Approve the awards of \$9,000 to the Fillie project; \$8,000 to the Yoh building; \$2,000 to the Nichtenberg building; and \$1,000 to the Emiliano’s project for the 2007 Downtown Existing Building Façade Grants.

I. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE – None

J. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

K. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

L. ADJOURNMENT – 9:35 am