
MINUTES
Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 8:30 AM

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

A. ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Member Williams called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Members Beeler, Castine, Giddings, McGurn, and Reeves were present. Kelly Huard, Matt Dubé, Anthony Lyons and Stephanie Seawright represented Staff.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Recommendation: Adopt the Agenda as presented.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes for December 19, 2007 as presented.

D. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chair's Report – None

2. Staff Report – Information Items

- Downtown Parking Study – The selection committee has ranked the respondents. A final decision is anticipated for February, following oral presentations from the top candidates.
- Gainesville Responsible Hospitality Partnership – GPD has released statistics relating to underage drinking violations for the 4th quarter of 2007. Three GRHP members, all located in the Downtown hospitality district, exceeded the Partnership's 12-violation maximum. Mojitos, Rehab, and Rue Bar have subsequently lost their "Responsible Vendor" status. These businesses may be eligible to rejoin the group if they reduce under-21 violations over the next quarter.
- GRU Site Master Plan – Subsequent to the August 22nd public meeting, City, CRA, and GRU officials recognized that this project needed additional attention and retooling. After regrouping to assess the situation, progress on this project is again underway. Representatives from The University Financing Foundation met with City, GRU, and UF officials on February 7th. TUFF has significant experience in funding projects of this scope and magnitude (such as Technology Square at Georgia Tech), and will aid the CRA and the City and the process moves forward.
- Hampton Inn/Lot 9 Redevelopment – Fencing, staging, and site-clearing work has begun. Onsite foundation work will commence by the end of the month. Pictures of on-going progress are attached as backup.
- University Avenue Improvements - Bike racks have arrived. The remaining waste receptacles, planters, and benches are due to arrive the first week of February. Installation is planned for February and March. The roadway median designs (5 in CPUH, 3 in Eastside) are completed and work is underway to design irrigation systems.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Cade Museum

The Board received the update and was apprised of the community design charrette scheduled for March which will seek input from the public.

2. Porter’s Neighborhood Improvements

The Board received the update by Staff. Members discussed the newly constructed Porter’s fence.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2008 Downtown Second Amendatory Budget

Staff reviewed the budget with the Board.

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

Recommendation: Adopt the second amendatory budget for FY 2008 with correction to the attachment to replace “Model Block Program” with “Union Street”.

I. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE – None

J. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Member McGurn asked staff to talk with Gainesville Green with regards to opening up the lot for parking. Mr. Lyons stated that a request has been made to Public Works and that Staff is working on the parking lot being reopened.

Member McGurn also thanked whoever was responsible in restoring the parking spaces to Harry’s.

Member McGurn inquired as to how long construction will last on the Hampton Inn. Staff responded that construction will last approximately 14 months.

Member Castine commented on the bike lanes on Main Street.

K. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

L. ADJOURNMENT – 9:20 am