
MINUTES
Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 31, 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 8:30 am. Members Beeler, Castine, Giddings, McGurn, Reeves and Williams were present. Kelly Huard, Anthon Lyons and Stephanie Seawright represented Staff.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Recommendation: Adopt the Agenda as presented.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Recommendation: Close the nominations of Kinnon Thomas, Janie Williams and Linda McGurn as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively.

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

Recommendation: Elect the officers of Kinnon Thomas, Janie Williams and Linda McGurn as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively for 2008.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes for September 26, 2007 as presented.

E. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Steve Joplin of Solid Waste discussed the garbage issue in the Downtown district.

F. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chair's Report – None

2. Staff Report – Information Items

- Scheduling of December 2007 meeting – The scheduled meeting date was December 26, 2007 which is the day after Christmas. The board decided to reschedule the meeting for December 19, 2007
- University Avenue Interim Improvements – CRA staff has submitted the improvements plans to FDOT for a Special Use Permit to install permanent streetscape equipment. Quotes for streetscape equipment have been obtained. Public Works is obtaining easements for bus shelters and benches along the right of way. Zamia Design Landscape Architecture has started the design of the roadway medians in CPUH and the Eastside District. Bellomo-Herbert has started work on streetscape standards revisions. Work is progressing on bus shelter re-designs.
- 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.
- Downtown Farmer's Market – The market officially moved to the Plaza on October 17, 2007. The operation was very successful, drawing large crowds, media coverage, and increased visibility. At Staff's request, Public Works designated the 19 newly-striped spaces along SE 1st Avenue as market vendor parking. These spaces are restricted for use by market vendors on Wednesday afternoons. These spaces,

which can accommodate roughly half of the vendors, are another important benefit of moving the Plaza. Prior to the move and CRA involvement, free parking was not available to market members.

- Amendatory Budget – The 2008 amendatory budget was approved by the CRA at the September 17, 2007 meeting. As requested by DRAB, a copy of this budget is included for informational purposes as part of the agenda backup
- Lighting on SE 2nd – At the September 2007 meeting, DRAB considered the possibility of continuing the decorative lighting scheme along SW 2nd Avenue across Main Street to include medians in the vicinity of Union Street Station. At the time, Member McGurn had been in contact with Jonesville Lighting and suggested a cost estimate of \$2500. Staff has examined the issue further and has received an updated estimate of \$13,252.00.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Porters Neighborhood Improvements

The Board received the update by Staff. Members discussed the need to do some type of improvements at Lynch Park.

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

Recommendation: Direct staff to execute a plan to make Lynch Park a dog walk park with parking along the backside.

2. Bethel Garage

The Board received the update by Staff. Members discussed what the general vision of the bus shelter is, the overall plaza improvements. They considered putting the Bethel Garage out to bid. The members discussed the responsibility of this Board is to get the roofing and exterior structure repaired and consider leaving the interior to the business that ultimately may occupy it.

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

Recommendation: Approve staff recommendation that CRA Board request the City Commission authorize the use of funding from account 332-790-M660-5190 for Bethel redevelopment.

3. Discussion of Downtown Water Feature

The Board received the update by Staff. After discussing the health related risks of the water features the members asked staff to think about other options for the plaza.

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

Recommendation: Do not include a water feature during the downtown plaza improvements.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Gainesville Responsible Hospitality Partnership

Staff informed the Board that the GRHP membership is increasing at an unprecedented rate. The membership is now at 28.

I. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE – None

J. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Member McGurn asked about Gainesville Greens being extended until June 2008. Mr. Lyons discussed they have until that time to start construction on the project.

Member Castine announced that Modern Shoe Repair is closing its doors after 40 years.

K. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

L. ADJOURNMENT – 9:35 am